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Monday June 1 1998

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Inside today's Guardian International find the unrivalled 12 page-sports broadsheet

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Decision day time runs out for England's World Cup coach

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Cut in air margins 'risks disaster'

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

A DECISION to halve air safety margins in response to congested skies could have disastrous consequences unless safeguards are added, experts have warned.

New rules mean that within three years aircraft at high altitude over Europe will be separated in height by 1,000 feet instead of 2,000.

Airlines from eastern and southern Europe, which lack the technology to cope with the new regulations governing distance between aircraft, have fuelled fears of increased near misses.

Britain has backed the recommendation by Eurocontrol, the inter-government body responsible for the safety of air navigation, to reduce separation for aircraft between 29,000 and 41,000 feet.

The British Airline Pilots' Association said a minority of aircraft would fall well below new standards because they were not built by the world's largest two aircraft manufacturers, Boeing and Airbus. "They will have to be excluded at all costs," it said.

The Guild of Air Traffic Controllers urged increased vigilance. "The industry is proposing to double the numbers of aircraft above certain levels and that must be a concern."

The Federal Aviation Authority, the American air safety body, warned two years ago that European air traffic controllers with new computers might not be able to prevent collisions.

Andrew Fisher, of the Consumers Association, said: "We have to listen to what the pilots are saying and take their concerns on board."

The changes, which are expected to be introduced by 2001 after trials next year, will mean that up to double the number of aircraft will be able to fly at high altitudes over Europe. The move will lead to significant fuel savings for the airlines.

The Civil Aviation Authority welcomed the change but insisted safety remained its priority. It said the 2,000 feet rule had not changed since the 1950s and was obsolete.

"Plans are well under way to introduce the scheme, which would have the complete backing by our own air traffic control system," a spokesman said. "There is no threat to safety because advances in technology allow this to happen. It will be a big step forward in assisting aircraft movements."

A similar system has already been installed in one of the big corridors across the north Atlantic, and has been operating for the past three years, but without the volume which can be expected in Europe. It allows aircraft to be certificated to fly at 1,000 feet separation. Its performance was monitored closely before reduced separation was introduced, but no problems have been discovered.

Alastair Deacon, senior consultant at the Glasgow-based company, RTEL, said: "With air traffic increasing at an annual rate of 5 per cent, the industry must find ways of getting more planes in the sky."

The pilots' association said adequate aircraft certification was crucial. "But we cannot stand in the way of anything which maintains the status quo or improves it."

Three monitoring units, probably over France, the Alps and the Benelux countries, will be able to track up to 60 aircraft simultaneously in busy areas. The Meteorological Office at Bracknell will also provide pressure conditions for pilots flying at high altitudes.

The changes are not likely to have any impact on the number of near misses over Britain, particularly the growing numbers which are reported in the overcrowded London and South-east area. They usually take place at around 10,000 feet.

Faces of despair

Frightened children peer from behind a tent in Faizabad, northern Afghanistan, in the earthquake's aftermath PHOTOGRAPH: SAEED KHAN

The homeless huddle in the mud. Their villages have disappeared

Richard Galpin, who yesterday flew over the site of Afghanistan's latest devastating earthquake, reports from the scene

ENTIRE villages in mountainous northern Afghanistan have been wiped out by a massive earthquake that has brought terrible devastation to the country for the second time in less than four months.

At least eight villages have disappeared completely and the fate of dozens more is unclear.

Heavy rain has turned the ground to sludge, burying hundreds of victims, and the homeless sit huddled in the cold and damp under makeshift cloth shelters.

With many people left homeless and stranded in rain and mud others have set up makeshift cloth shelters under which women and children sit huddled in the cold and damp.

"We have to tell the people to leave the area. It is to dangerous," said Shamshul Haq Arianfar, a spokesman for the anti-Taliban alliance which controls the region.

Its soldiers have already recovered 1,650 bodies from the rubble and the death toll could rise far higher.

United Nations officials estimated yesterday that 3,000 people were buried beneath their houses.

A Swiss rescue team which was due to fly in with equipment to detect trapped people pulled out, saying it was already too late.

The roofs of the houses in this remote area are made of wood and many layers of heavy mud. Aid officials said they feared that those trapped underneath stood virtually no chance of surviving.

"The destruction was quite amazing," said the UN co-ordinator for Afghanistan, Alfredo Witschi-Cestari, after returning from Shar-i-Buzurg, the most seriously affected area.

"We saw a couple of villages that had been completely flattened, but there are probably more," he said.

"This is a mountainous region and the force of the earthquake sent houses crashing down hillsides towards the valley."

This latest earthquake, measuring around seven on the Richter scale, struck the northern provinces of Takhar and Badakhstan on Saturday. More damage was caused by four aftershocks.

International aid agencies have rushed to the region with emergency medical sup-

turn to page 2, column 7

Gazza gets the boot

Vikram Dodd

PAUL Gascoigne's international career ended in tears and ignominy last night when he was dropped from England's World Cup squad.

England coach Glenn Hoddle brought forward his unveiling of his final 22 after news of the dropping of Gascoigne leaked.

The 31-year-old was devastated by the decision, and was said to be in tears and calling friends at home to say he could not believe what had happened.

His colourful, hard-living lifestyle and nights on the town had led to public criticism from Hoddle. His performances in England's warm-up games, the last against Belgium on Friday, were judged to be lacklustre.

Doubts about Gascoigne's fitness and ability to last for 90 minutes finally persuaded Hoddle to leave him out.

Gascoigne hit the headlines earlier this month after he was pictured in the early hours of the morning in central London eating a kebab after a night out with Chris Evans and Rod Stewart.

Hoddle said he was disappointed by Gascoigne's behaviour and warned that if he misbehaved again he would be out of the England squad.

Gascoigne, who joined Middlesbrough in March from Glasgow Rangers with a price-tag of £3 million, was tipped to be the inspirational player who could help England lift the World Cup for the first time since 1966.

Gascoigne leapt to worldwide fame after he burst into tears during the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

A booking in the semi-final against West Germany meant he would miss the final if England qualified. His sobbing as he was taken off endeared him to millions watching on television.

David Lacey, Guardian Sport, page 13

Girl power failure as Ginger quits the Spice Girls

Geri Halliwell, aka Ginger Spice: 'I'll be back'

Helen Carter

GINGER yesterday turned her back on the Spice Girls, plunging thousands of teenagers into despair — and the four remaining band members into uncertainty and possible legal turmoil.

The news, delivered by Geri Halliwell's lawyer, Julian Turton, at a brief press conference in central London, cast an immediate shadow over the Spice Girls' American tour, due to start in a fortnight.

Halliwell and the band could face legal action by promoters of the £40 million, 40-city tour of the US and Canada, which is due to start in Miami on June 15. The band's spokeswoman said their lawyers were discussing potential problems.

At worst, Halliwell could face a bill for millions of pounds to get out of contracts with the band.

Her decision to quit — which had been widely anticipated after her failure to perform on the BBC's midweek lottery show and at concerts in Norway last week — followed a series of bitter internal rows with other band members. Her lawyers had spent all weekend negotiating with the band's solicitors.

It is rumoured that Halliwell, who last weekend met television presenter and Virgin Radio boss Chris Evans, may have her sights set on a career in television.

Her statement, read by Mr Turton, said: "This is a message to the fans. Sadly, I would like to confirm that I have left the Spice Girls.

"This is because of differences between us. I'm sure the group will continue to be successful and I wish them all the best. I have no immediate plans. I wish to apologise to all the fans and to thank them and everyone who's been there. Lots of love, Geri. PS I'll be back."

The Spice Girls' responded to Halliwell's decision in a letter read out by their spokesman, Alan Edwards.

It said: "We are upset and saddened by Geri's departure but we are very supportive in whatever she wants to do.

"The Spice Girls are here to stay — see you at the stadiums! We are sorry to all our fans for having to go through all of this. All our love, Victoria, Emma, Mel C, Mel B."

It ended: "Friendship never ends!"

Mr Edwards later vowed: "Spice will live for many years to come." The [illegible] will perform in Rome at a charity concert with Pavarotti on June 9.

Pop pundit Jonathan King said yesterday: "I always had a feeling that Geri was a manufactured band with a two-year shelf-life and a built-in demise."

Bubble that went pop page 5; Leader comment, page 9

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New Delhi urged to sign test-ban treaty as its call for 'non-discriminatory' global weapons agreement is dismissed as disingenuous

India plans no more tests – for now

Ian Black in London and M. R. Narayan Swamy in New Delhi

INDIA insisted yesterday that it would conduct no more nuclear tests for the time being but indicated that it was not prepared to sign a test-ban treaty without a global commitment to disarmament.

Seeking to deflect criticism of its blasts earlier this month, New Delhi called for the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Convention, along the lines of existing agreements outlawing chemical and biological arms, in "a global non-discriminatory framework".

But the proposal was dismissed as unrealistic and disingenuous in the face of insistence by the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France that under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) no-one but them may possess nuclear weapons.

It came as the French president, Jacques Chirac, called on the international community to "unite its efforts" to convince both countries to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

And Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said: "If India wants to get back to centre stage in the international community then it has got to send signals that it accepts the rules. The first starting point for that should be to sign up to the CTBT ... without conditions."

On Friday Mr Cook will join foreign ministers of the big five — who are also the permanent members of the UN Security Council — and a week later those of the G8, bringing in Italy, Japan, Germany and Canada, to push for more active disarmament measures.

Diplomats said they may also be joined by South Africa, which secretly developed nuclear weapons during the apartheid years but later abandoned them to become a force for non-proliferation. India and Pakistan might be invited but it is not clear whether they will attend.

It is in this sort of forum that some arms control experts see a possible silver lining in the cloud of the Asian tests, bringing a challenge to the nuclear states to live up to disarmament responsibilities.

Stephen Young, an analyst with the British-American Security Information Council, said: "For the Indians to call for a nuclear weapons convention without taking some real steps is meaningless and disingenuous because they know it will be rejected in favour of the NPT."

India has kept out of the NPT, which it says legitimises nuclear arms in the hands of a few nations but forces all others to renounce the option to build them.

India's defence minister, George Fernandes, said in an interview to ha broadcast today that India did not need to carry out more tests. But he added: "In terms of a country's security concerns, one doesn't say the last word at any point in time."

Scientist talks peace, page 6

Pakistani nuclear scientists being feted by the public at an airforce base in Islamabad yesterday after returning from the nuclear testing site in Chagai PHOTOGRAPH: B K BANGASH

After the blasts, the fallout for sick and suffering villagers

John-Thor Dahlburg in Chacha, western India

WHEN Haji Shamshndeen felt the ground sway nnder his feet and saw the plates fall from the shelf, he thought the world was ending.

"I ran outside and prayed to God to be spared," said the farmer from Cbacha, a village five miles from India's Pokharan nnclear test range.

A fortnight later, two of his five cows are dead, 200 of his 300 goats are dangerously thin and suffering from diarrhoea, and many of his neighbours feel weak and ill.

Mr Shamshndeen blames the problems on the same awesome power that ruptured and emptied his underground water tank and cracked the sandstone walls of his house.

"It was the tests," he said, referring to the five nnclear explosions carried out at Pokharan on May 11 and 13. "It is the tests that have driven up the temperatures so much that my cows weren't able to stand it."

The tests may have pushed the sub-continent into a nnclear arms race, but in the Thar desert of western India, where temperatnres have recently reached 47C, people fear the blasts have been tha cause of more immediate and personal woes.

"After the 11th, my nose has started bleeding three or four times," said Multana Ram, aged 60, a farmer wbose sun-blasted village, Khetolai, is less than two miles from the test site. "My knees ache — I can't bend my legs." His wife has had bonts of fever.

A doctor who visited Khetolai aftar the tests told Mr Ram his problems were caused by the intense summer heat. Tba farmer thinks he knows better.

"It is tha heat and the gas generated by the explosion that are causing this." He remembers a dark brown clond rising into the air and dust blowing into the village for two hours on May 11.

Tbe anthoritles insist that the underground explosions pose no health risk. And the scorching temperatures are not confined to the area around the test site.

M. C. Vyas, the chief doctor at Pokharan's hospital, spent a week touring villages around the test site soon after the explosions bnt said he found nothing drastically different.

But since May 11, local teacber Surej Karan Purohit has collected reports of up to 100 people taken ill in Cbacha, Khetolai and four other villages near the Pokharan range.

At Khetolai's dairy co-operative, Ladhu Ram, 60, said: "I am short of breath, my eyes are watering, and my hands itch — I can't sleep at night.

"This bomb they set off — this waa not a holiday firecracker."

In Chacha, Mr Shamshndeen was showing some visitors hia cracked walls. "They say these tests are right for tha country. But we people who live here have to put up with all these things. It's not right for us." — *Los Angeles Times*

Sinn Fein refuses royal party invitation

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

A CONTROVERSIAL invitation to Sinn Fein to attend a royal garden party ended in shambles yesterday when its leaders, Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, snubbed the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, and turned it down.

They refused to attend a reception at Hillsborough Castle, the Queen's official residence in Northern Ireland, on Wednesday with the Prince of Wales — citing as their reason his honorary title as colonel-in-chief of the Parachute Regiment, notorious among republicans for its part in the Bloody Sunday killings in Derry in 1972.

The two raised Bloody Sunday as a counter to Unionists who had protested against their presence on the grounds that Prince Charles should not have been put in the position by Ms Mowlam of meeting representatives of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, which assassinated his great-uncle, Lord Mountbatten, in 1979.

The Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble, described the invitation as "insensitive" and the independent Ulster MP, Robert McCartney, said: "Sinn Fein are treating with contempt an offer that was made by the contemptible."

Ms Mowlam will be under pressure again this afternoon when she makes a Commons statement on the Northern Ireland referendum. Conservatives and Unionists will accuse her of watering down Tony Blair's promise on decommissioning, the issue likeliest to jeopardise the peace settlement.

She softened the Government's line during a television interview yesterday, increasing Unionist suspicion that Sinn Fein will be allowed to become ministers in the new Northern Ireland Assembly executive without the IRA handing over a single bullet.

Mr Blair will discuss decommissioning with the Irish prime minister, Bertie Ahern, in Dublin tonight. Saturday's violence in the Garvagby Road, in Portadown — the first riot since the Good Friday agreement in which four civilians and 15 policemen were injured — is also expected to be on their agenda.

Loyalists accused republicans of orchestrating the violence in an area at risk when the Orange marching season gets under way. Mr Blair is going to Belfast tomorrow.

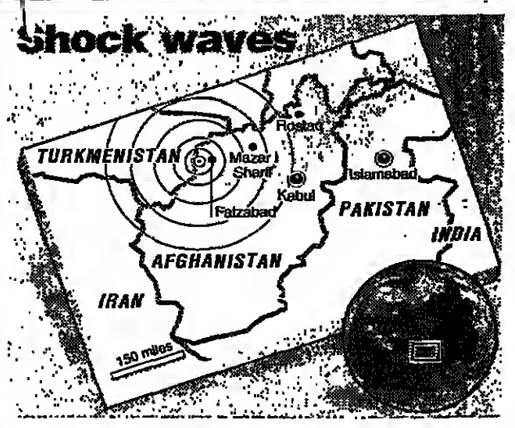
Ms Mowlam, defending her invitation, said Sinn Fein had signed up to the peace settlement: "They're part of the process and we expect them to go into the assembly and sit with others and so I think it's incumbent that we behave in that way too. So that is why they were invited." She added that if they had attended, she would bave ensured that Prince Cbarles did not meet them.

Given their republican background, it was always unlikely that Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness would attend. The party chairman, Mitcbel McLaughlin, said: "Due to the circumstances surrounding the murders in Derry on Bloody Sunday and the presence of the colonel-in-chief of the regiment responsible, Sinn Fein will not be attending the garden party at Hillsborough."

In an interview on the BBC's Breakfast with Frost yesterday, Ms Mowlam repeatedly dodged direct questions about wbether Sinn Fein would be allowed to become ministers if the IRA had not decommissioned.

A Northern Ireland source confirmed yesterday that the legislation to set up the assembly will not make handover of weapons an absolute condition for being allowed to become a minister.

Shock waves



Thousands lie buried under sludge as Afghanistan's earthquake toll rises

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plies and tents and blankets to provide shelter for the thousands of homeless left waiting for help in coping with the disaster.

Saturday's earthquake was much more powerful than one in February which killed tbousands of people. And there has been damage over a much wider area. Some 60,000 people live in the quake zone, twice the number affected by the last disaster.

"I think this is going to be worse than February," said Mr Witschi-Cestari.

"The magnitude of the earthquake is greater, a lot of bouses were already damaged from the previous quake and double the number of people have been affected."

When the tremors began, the sun-baked mud homes, already weakened by the last quake and the relentless rain battering the region in recent days, crumbled.

The only good news is that the earthquake struck during the day, wben many people were out working in the fields. February's came in the middle of the night.

And this time the response of the international community bas been swifter. In February it took five days before emergency supplies reached the area. This time the first help arrived in bours. "We have managed to achieve more in a day this time than we did in a week in February," said Mr Witschi-Cestari.

The UN is hiring belicopters and planes to fly in medicine and tents. But there are buge logistical problems. The roads to the worst-affected region in Badakhshan, two days' drive from Faizabad, bave been blocked by landslides and floods. Even the donkey tracks are impassable. The only way to get relief to the people in this area is by belicopter. And that may be impossible unless the weather improves.

Besides being one of the poorest regions of Afghanistan, it is mountainous, making flying hazardous in poor visibility. Aid workers are alao concerned about the fighting between the hardline Islamic Taliban milltia, which controls most of the country, and the oppositioo Northern Alliance.

The UN says that, for the moment, it will not be starting an international appeal: it still has more than $1 million (£606,000) from February.

Pay challenge to Bank

Scrap plan for big rises to set a good example, urges Brown

Mark Atkinson and Larry Elliott

THE Chancellor, Gordon Brown, is urging the Bank of England to support bls calls for wage restraint by backing down on plans to boost the pay of the members of its governing court.

Mr Brown is privately making it clear to the Bank that it should set an example to the rest of the labour market and scrap plans to bring payments to members of the court into line with non-executive directors in the City and industry.

The Chancellor has issued repeated warnings in recent months about the need for moderation in wage settlements, stressing that excessive claims will trigger higher base rates and slower growth.

With the Bank of England Act due to become law today, the revamped court assumes formal responsibility for overseeing the monetary policy committee (MPC), which has day-to-day control over interest rates.

The Bank is understood to be arguing that the 6 non-executive members of the court should have their nominal pay of £500 a year increased to the "going rate" for non-executive directors of £15,000-£20,000 or more as an acknowledgement of their enhanced role. Previously, the court's role was largely honorary.

The Chancellor, who has the final say, is determined that any rise should be more modest to avoid sending the wrong signal to pay bargainers.

As part of his plan to tackle the perceived City bias of the Bank, Mr Brown drafted representatives from the regions and different interest groups on to the court.

Among new members are Bill Morris, the Transport and General Workers' Union leader, who earns almost £60,000, and Graham Hawker, chief executive of Hyder — formerly Welsh Water — on £325,000 a year.

According to the Bank, the new court will discuss remuneration when it meets for the first time later this month.

However, it is almost certain that the Bank will heed Mr Brown's call for restraint. Earnings growth is running at an annual rate of 5 per cent, the maximum the Bank believes is compatible with achieving the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target.

When the MPC meets this week to decide on the level of interest rates — currently 7.25 per cent — it will have earnings growth at the top of its list of its worries.

Most economists expect Wednesday and Thursday's MPC meeting to result in the decision of borrowing being left on hold.

Leader comment, page 9

Making theatre child's play

Review

Lyn Gardner

Scottish International Children's Festival
Edinburgh

IN THE Traverse, the entire audience for Hans Clodhopper is sitting oo the skirt of a giant harpist, red velvet spread across the floor like a vast ruby carpet.

Over the road, in the Garage, a rainforest has sprouted in a tent housing Landscapes, a strange, dreamy show that is half David Attenborough TV special, half New Age therapy.

Down at Theatre Workshop there is Little Victories, a hard-hitting drama about learning to live with death, plus Scraping the Surface, a grimly comic one-man show performed by an actor with cerebral palsy.

Yes, the festival is in full swing. But this is not the Fringe. Most of the audience is under four feet tall.

If you want your preconceptions about children's theatre challenged, then this is the place to do it. Britain's only performing arts festival for young people this year offered 150 performances and six premieres.

This was also the year the festival came in from the cold, exchanging the waterlogged tents of Inverleith Park for established venues — evidence, if it was needed, that the creation of theatre for the under-14s is not just a fringe activity.

Exciting, visionary theatre crosses the boundaries between all ages and cultures. Theaterwerkstatt Pilkentafel's wordless Washing Day was an endlessly inventive piece of work for the under-fives in which socks became puppets and a pair of underpants a sinister stalker. This was a production that exhibited the kind of boundless imagination that you see from the great physical theatre companies.

Visible Fictions revived their touching version of The Red Balloon in a production that never sentimentalises childhood and lays bare all the power of the bully and the pain of the victim. It ends with the most haunting and affirmative of images — a tiny puppet child being carried over the city to safety and adventure by a bouquet of miniature balloons.

Denmark's Baggard Teatret presented Hans Clodhopper, a piece of story-telling that never quite lived up to its opening coup de théâtre, in which the audience was invited to sit on a performer's skirt. But there was more sustained work from Canada's Theatre Terrific, in which Lyle Victor Albert proved thet living with disability can be a long laugh.

Scotland's Tag Theatre broke another taboo and made young audiences face up to death in Little Victories. Shaun Prendergast's sly, sometimes vicious bumour presents the world from the viewpoint of the knowing child. Hence young Tony on his ineffectual, duffle-coated stepfather, Gordon: "Paddington Bear trying to live quietly under an assumed name".

CWS FACT Nº8

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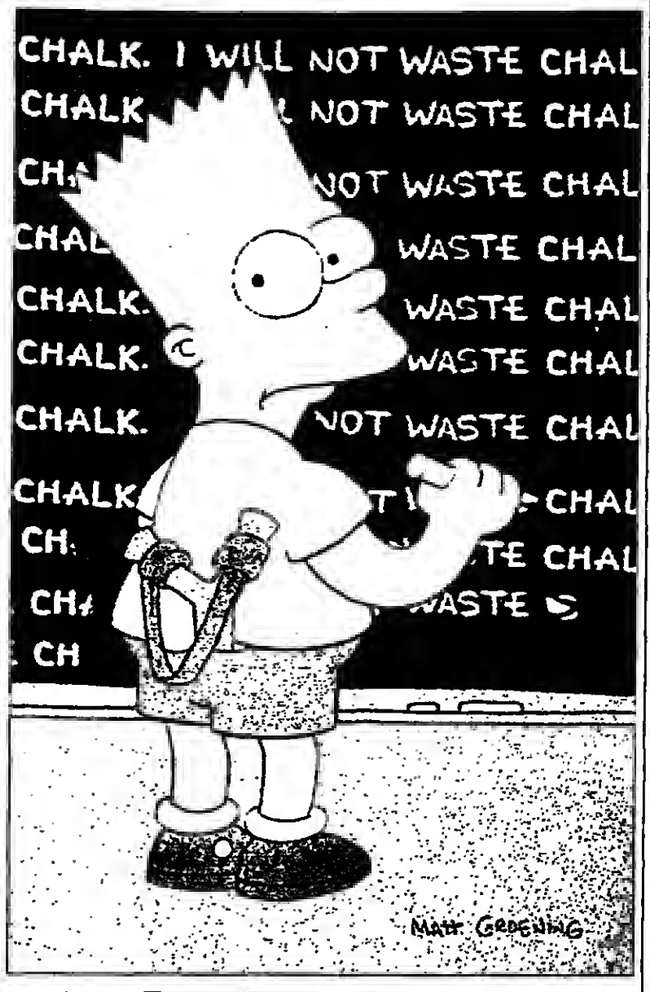
The century's top 20 cultural icons

Picasso and Bart Simpson are in. So are James Joyce and Lucille Ball. (Lucille Ball?) Elvis and Proust didn't make it

Ruaridh Nicoll sorts the best from the rest



HE MAY be yellow, non-existent and have deformed hands, but Bart Simpson, cartoon dude most excellent, is one of Time magazine's 20 most influential artists and entertainers of our century.

The American news magazine has released its second top 20 list, this time looking at the arts, in the run-up to naming the most influential figure of the century. Americans abound in this most American pursuit of the American century: Frank Sinatra, Oprah Winfrey, Rodgers and Hammerstein are there.

"It's interesting that Bart Simpson makes it," said author Fay Weldon. "It is the most sophisticated cartoon."

It was Bart who once hugged a television, then turned to his father and said: "It's done more to raise me than you have." A fine comment on a culture in filmmaking that lists Steven Spielberg before Ingmar Bergman. And Orson Welles is not even mentioned.

"No director or producer has ever put together a more popular body of work," the magazine argues in Spielberg's favour.

In January, BBC Radio 3 carried out a similar exercise based on the judgment of novelist A S Byatt, art curator Bryan Robertson, and Oxford professors John Carey and Jean Aitchison. They produced a list of which 80 per cent were dead and the rest over 60 — except for Damien Hirst, whom the programme's editor added — to the fury of the panel.

Mr Hirst does not make the American list but Radio 3's controller Nicholas Kenyon said he was surprised by some of the choices made by Time. "It would be amazing if the British and American views of the culturally important people of our century coincided absolutely, but some of Time's choices make my eyebrows rise, as I'm sure it will make other eyebrows rise here in Britain."

Christopher John Farley, a senior writer at Time, made few excuses for the list, which he said was drawn up by a wide variety of the magazine's critics.

"These lists are often very personal. All but one of my picks — Aretha Franklin — didn't make it, I would have really liked to see Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Bob Marley in there. It would have been nice if these people brought the world into the list."

Television's influence could not be ignored. "It was a choice between Samuel Beckett and Bart Simpson and so of course we chose Bart in the end."

The inclusion of T S Eliot as the most influential poet raised sighs of pleasure on both sides of the Atlantic. Time wrote: "Serious poetry was about to be eclipsed by fiction. [Eliot] provided the stark salvation of The Waste Land".

Ms Weldon was delighted. "Thank God they've heard of T S Eliot," she said.

The inclusion of Oprah Winfrey would never have crossed the British panel's mind but given the deluge of talk shows that have flooded the world it is difficult to resist her advance.

Walter Isaacson, Time's managing editor, justified putting Le Corbusier in front of Frank Lloyd Wright. "Look out your window, and what do you see? Le Corbusier, not Wright," he said.

The magazine caused controversy earlier when its 20 most politically influential figures omitted Joseph Stalin and John F. Kennedy.

Joining Picasso and Bart are: left, from top, Louis Armstrong, T S Eliot, Steven Spielberg, Bob Dylan, James Joyce, Jim Henson; second column from top, Charlie Chaplin, Lucille Ball, Le Corbusier, Coco Chanel, Aretha Franklin, Oprah Winfrey; third, Frank Sinatra, Marlon Brando; fourth column, Igor Stravinsky, Martha Graham; above right, the Beatles, Rodgers and Hammerstein

A psychologist lists the reasons why we all have to make our lists

Ruaridh Nicoll

ON the train, on the plane, at the kitchen table, in the garden, on the loo, they are the stuff of dreams and aspirations. The list, that curious human phenomenon, is increasingly with us — the end product of statistics.

The 1,000 richest, the most influential, the top ten, the football league, the best and the worst dominate our lives and if we are not lucky enough to make one, how well our man, woman, horse, dog or team moves up and down them matters enormously.

"We want to list things that are interesting," said Professor Nick Chater, who teaches psychology at Warwick university. "We are always having to order everything. One of the things that separates us from other species is our ability to provide reasons. Lists aren't necessarily reasons but they are an outcome."

Lists are always subjective — look at the difference between Time and Radio 3's choices as the most culturally important people of our century — but they give us a context in which to live.

Like the chimpanzees and baboons before us, social dominance still cuts to the heart of our psyche despite the best efforts of the anti-capitalists.

While most people cannot expect to make a list of the most influential or the richest, both provide us with aspirations, according to Prof Chater. "We're trying to define the good models. One way we direct our activities is to look at good examples of who we are."

Evolutionary psychologists believe that we make mental lists of those we choose to mate with. Aim too high and we face rejection, too low and we fail in our cosmic duty.

Lists also show us where we want to go. "It's what we want now and in the future," said Prof Chater.

Christopher John Farley, the senior writer at Time who helped compile the magazine's list, agrees.

"Everyone from Forbes magazine [which compiles America's richest], to David Letterman [who has a weekly 'top ten' on his TV programme] and Nick Hornby, whose book High Fidelity was based around lists, prove that we are creatures who make lists."

Quite where Bart Simpson falls in all this, no one was prepared to say.

Worst-off families could lose out on aid

Lucy Ward
Political Correspondent

TONY Blair's flagship Social Exclusion Unit is today warned that it risks depriving some of England's poorest households of aid if it relies on the official government definition of the country's "worst estates".

A report published by the think-tank closest to New Labour, the Institute for Public Policy Research, casts doubt on a list of the poorest estates, which was drawn up by civil servants 18 months ago and was cited by Peter Mandelson when he announced the unit's creation last summer.

Though the unit has no budget, the outcome of its current inquiry into the problems of the poorest estates is likely strongly to influence the distribution of government regeneration funding.

The institute's study suggests that using the established methods of identifying worst estates could lead the Government to favour council tenants in London when distributing aid, at the expense of households living in poverty in rented and owned homes outside the capital. Black and Asian residents would be hit hardest, the report says.

It claims the existing method of defining deprivation relies too strongly on examining numbers of council tenants in a particular area, and places too little emphasis on other factors associated with social exclusion.

The Social Exclusion Unit was formally launched last December, but was flagged as a key government project last July. Based in the Cabinet Office and steered by the Prime Minister, the 12-strong unit was instructed by Mr Blair to focus initially on three priorities: truancy and school exclusion; rough sleeping and the country's worst estates.

It was ordered to report to ministers by mid-summer on proposals for tackling the problems of estates, including crime, drugs, community breakdown and bad schools.

In a Fabian Society speech last summer, Mr Mandleson, one of eight ministers involved in the unit, described the SEU as "the most important innovation in government we have made" and called social exclusion "the greatest social crisis of our time".

He identified large groups of excluded people, including the three million on the 1,300 poorest housing estates.

The figure was drawn from a report, Mapping Local Authority Estates, commissioned under the Tories by the then Department of Environment and published in January 1997.

The new IPPR research, reported today in the think-tank's journal New Economy, warns the Government definition of deprivation places too much emphasis on council housing when defining exclusion, requiring an area to contain at least 50 per cent local authority housing to qualify.

Distribution of council housing varies dramatically from region to region around England, the study says, and "has no direct link to poverty".

The current definition would benefit London, which has a lower take-up of right to buy council homes and a lower proportion of owner occupation than any other region.

Meanwhile, in cities such as Bradford, Liverpool and Birmingham, the ethnic population living in the most deprived areas are much less likely to be living in council housing than in owned or rented accommodation.

Peter Lee of Birmingham University, co-author of the study with Alan Murie, called on the Government to measure levels of household poverty rather than relying on types of housing.

A spokeswoman for the SEU insisted the Government would not rely on the list of 1,370 worst estates.

Although Mr Mandleson has used the figure, she said no member of the SEU had referred to it since the unit's launch.

It had never been the intention of the unit "to look solely at areas where local authority housing predominates" and it interpreted its brief widely, she added.

The unit is still considering the responses to its consultation on the issue.

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Nation of reluctant workaholics

CASE STUDY

'People who work hard have nothing to be ashamed of'

ZENA Everett, aged 33, set up a recruitment consultancy in Holborn, central London, six years ago. As the firm grew, she found she was working very long hours and weekends. She made sacrifices to pursue her career, but feels the effort was entirely worthwhile.

Miss Everett, who lives in north London, does not regret any of the choices she made, but she is acutely aware that not all her staff share her zeal.

"Perhaps relationships went by the wayside, but I would have continued them if I had wanted to. The fact is, I wanted the business to succeed more than I wanted the relationships to succeed.

"People who work hard have nothing to be ashamed of. I do have a social life, and I am engaged, so I do not feel I have missed out that much, and I do not think that I am abnormal.

"I am in the lucky position that I can now manage my time much better than I used to because the firm is well-established.

"I am well aware of the problems that working too hard can bring to someone's home life. If I think that one of my employees is pushing themselves too hard, I will call them into my office and ask them why.

"I have made some sacrifices in my personal life, but they were ones I was prepared to make and I do not regret them."

Zena Everett: 'I have made some sacrifices; I do not regret them' PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GODWIN

ick Hopkins

IT WON'T come as a surprise to anyone heading to work this morning with a heavy heart, but it seems Britain is becoming a nation of reluctant workaholics.

People are working longer hours than before. They are more stressed and are making greater sacrifices for the sake of their careers.

Marriages and relationships are crumbling under the strain. Children are significant losers, too. The workforce spends less and less time at home, and working women are either foregoing having children, or postponing motherhood until there is "a window of opportunity".

These are just some of the discouraging findings of a report published today by Management Today magazine and WFD, a management consultancy which specialises in work/life analysis.

According to their survey Cool Britannia is overheating. People throughout the country are increasingly putting work before anything else, making decisions and compromises which they later regret.

More than 5,500 readers of the magazine took part, replying to a comprehensive questionnaire which asked pertinent questions about the way they juggle their commitments.

A large majority — 4,615 — said they had sacrificed something important at home for their career. Half said they had missed their children growing up, or been forced to put work before their family.

Others complained that they had had to move house for work, or had seen their social and private lives squeezed into non-existence by career demands. The sacrifices they had made ranged from the irritating, to the plain unforgiveable.

Many admittad missing school fairs. Some men had missed the birth of their children. A few volunteered that they had been away when their partner had been seriously ill ... one even postponed his father's funeral.

Almost half of the readers said they found it almost impossible to meet both personal and work commitments. Surprisingly, one in four men and one in three women said they would accept a pay cut to improve their situation.

According to the report, the outlook for working women is particularly bleak. Not only do they feel that men are still not pulling their weight at home, but it appears women make greater sacrifices, and have a tougher time, to achieve modest career goals.

One in 10 had passed up the opportunity to have children for the sake of their job. Working women also find it twice as hard to find partners as working men.

Of the managers who took part, 67 per cent said they were expected to ask more and more of their staff, and 34 per cent felt they often pushed them too hard. More than 30 per cent said work/life pressure was a prime cause of staff leaving. In the public sector and large organisations this figure soared to more than 40 per cent.

However, only one in three managers felt their company was doing all it could to help them maintain a healthy balance between home and working life.

The readers cheered themselves up by drawing up a wish-list of possible solutions to the work/family conundrum.

Their answers were just as telling.

Working fewer hours and changing corporate culture were the top two, followed by more obvious answers like earning more money and changing jobs.

Liz Bargh, WFD chief executive, said the survey had "hit a nerve in the lives of working people". She added: "The number of people who responded was overwhelming. The sacrifices some are making for the sake of their careers are shocking."

She concluded: "The report sends a clear signal: our present way of working is unsustainable, the cost is too high in human and business terms. Business will have to work with employees to balance work and life for compassion and for competitiveness."

Leader comment, page 8

Hilary Sharland on the Bronze Age hill fort, Old Sarum PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GODWIN

Green lobby objects to park-and-ride scheme by Bronze Age monument

Maev Kennedy
Heritage Correspondent

A PROPOSAL by Salisbury district council to place a park-and-ride site on a field of barley at the foot of Old Sarum ancient monument, the original city of Salisbury, has provoked outrage and more than 700 formal objections.

The objectors include the Wiltshire Archaeological Society, which regards the proposal as disastrous for the setting of the monument.

Old Sarum is a Bronze Age hill fort on which the original city of Salisbury was built. In the 13th century the bishop moved the city and the market down on to the river meadows in the plain, and built the new cathedral with the highest spire in England. The massive ramparts, and the ruins of the royal castle and the cathedral, are in the care of English Heritage.

English Heritage has raised no formal objection to the siting of the 800 car park-and-ride, to the astonishment of protesters.

Government planning guides require consideration for the setting of ancient monuments, as well as proposals which would directly damage them.

The farmer who will lose half her 20 acres of barley to compulsory purchase for the site is leading the fight.

"To us Old Sarum is not really a tourist site, it is a local amenity. Because it's free everybody goes up there, or picnics, to walk dogs, to take children to play," Hilary Sharland said.

On the city side development has crept to within a few fields of the monument, but on the other side it is still surrounded by green fields.

'It is quite clear that there is no possibility of screening this site adequately'

The new car park would be on the opposite side of the road but only two fields away, accessed by a large new roundabout on the A345.

The protesters fear it will also lead to further development which will soon ring the monument.

A recent report from the Council for the Preservation of Rural England suggested that many park-and-rides simply transfer traffic jams into open countryside, and undermine local public transport.

Salisbury's traffic and parking problems are notorious. The Government cancelled a bypass which was opposed by environmentalists. A proposed multi-storey car park in the city centre was also cancelled. The council's traffic division said most traffic came by the A345 from Amesbury, and after extensive research, the site was the most suitable for a park-and-ride. A map in the public consultation document prepared by the council does not show Old Sarum at all.

Kate Fielden, of the Wiltshire Archaeological Society, said yesterday: "We are extremely surprised, and disappointed, that English Heritage does not seem concerned about this.

"It is quite clear that there is no possibility of screening this site adequately. It will be very prominent in the landscape, glaringly visible. I believe such developments seriously damage the experience of these monuments. When you visit such a site you expect to be taken away from the rest of the world for a few moments peace, not hit in the eye by it."

Top charities cut office spending by a fifth

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

CHARITIES are cutting administration costs in response to public disquiet at donations spent on smart offices and managers' cars, figures released today suggest.

Average spending on management and administration by the top 500 charities fell almost a fifth last year, while spending on fund raising and publicity remained unchanged.

The survey, by the Charities Aid Foundation, for the second year running puts Oxfam top when ranked by voluntary income.

The survey suggests that the top 500's voluntary income rose 8 per cent in 1996-97, the biggest increase this decade, as a result largely of greater fund raising efforts. Income from charity shops went up a striking 21 per cent.

However, a forthcoming analysis of the sector as a whole by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations will show that bigger charities are doing much better than those with annual income below £1 million.

Further, the latest quarterly results of an index of total income of the top 100 charities, also released today, show a fall for the first time since the index started in 1992.

The index, run jointly by Barclays Bank and NGO Finance magazine, pinpoints a slump in investment income as the main reason, but voluntary income is also growing slower than inflation.

Four questioned over murder

POLICE yesterday arrested two men and two women in connection with the murder of a prostitute whose body was found dumped in an alley.

The body of Hayley Morgan, aged 20, was found partly clothed, with a plastic bag over her head, in an alley in Hull in East Yorkshire on Friday.

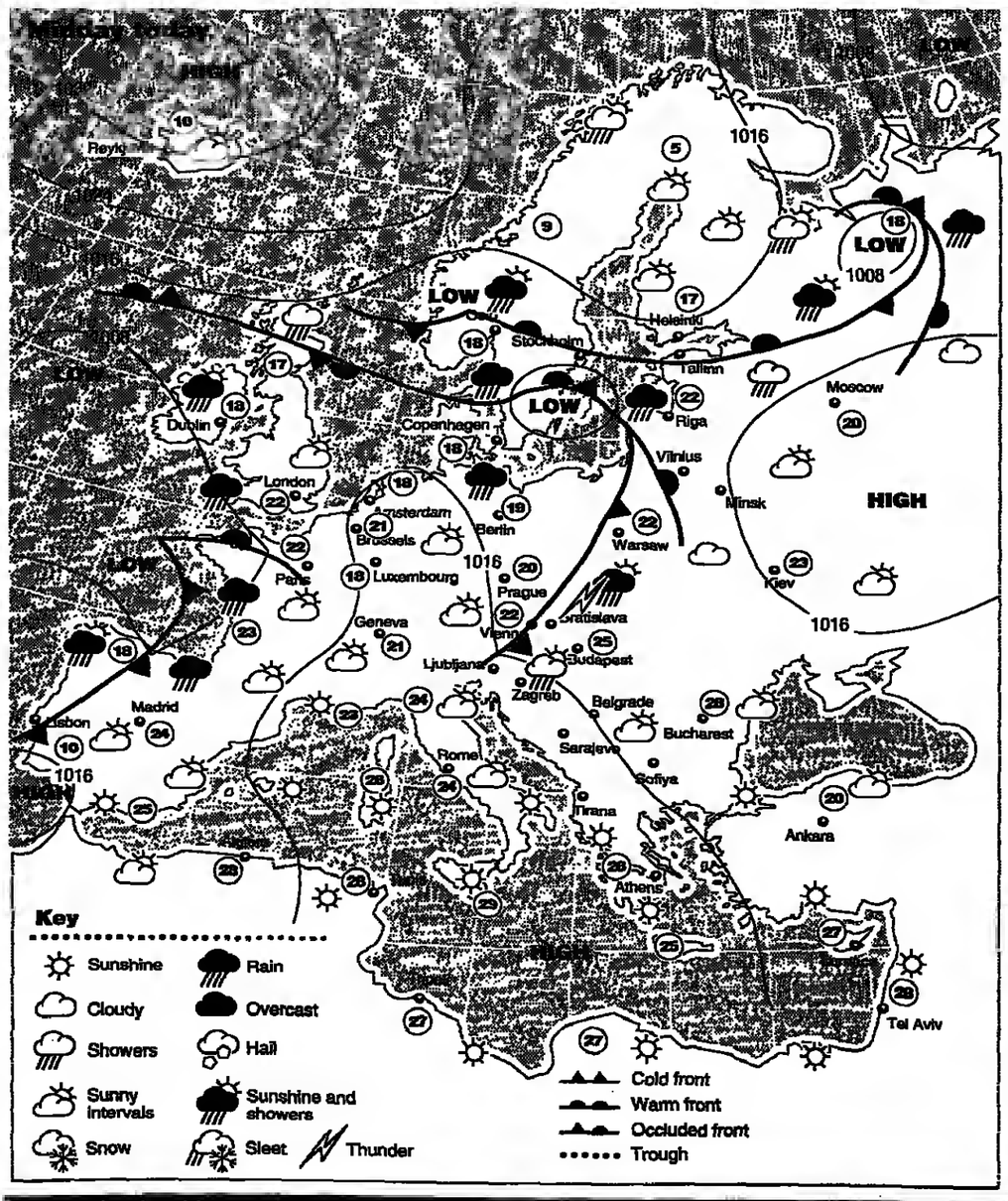
Friends had reported her missing on Wednesday. Police said Hayley, who also used the surname Marshall, was a drug user who had worked in Hull's prostitution area, near where she lived. Another prostitute, Samantha Class, aged 29, was murdered at the end of last year in Hull and dumped in a similar manner.

Det Supt Quentin Dowse, leading the investigation, said: "We are seeing if there is any link, but at this stage there's nothing concrete."

A post mortem showed the woman had been strangled, but there was no other injury or sign of forceful sexual assault.

The men, aged 28 and 30, and the women, 18 and 25, are being questioned.

The weather in Europe



European outlook

Scandinavia:
Denmark and southern parts of Norway and Sweden will be very unsettled with a lot of cloud and outbreaks of rain in many places. Finland and northern parts of Norway and Sweden will be drier and brighter, but the far north will be rather cold. Highs will range from 5C in the north to 15-18C in the south.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland:
The Low Countries, western Germany and Switzerland will have a mainly fine and dry day with pleasant sunny spells. However, further east in Germany and eastern parts of Austria there will be a mix of sunshine and showers. Highs will generally range between 18-21C.

France:
Western coastal areas of France will be mainly cloudy with rain never too far away. However, central and western areas including the Alps will have a settled day with plenty of warm sunshine. Temperatures will generally range between 18-23C.

Spain and Portugal:
Much of Portugal and western Spain will be cloudy with periods of heavy and thundery rain. The rain will tend to be more showery towards the Atlantic coast of Portugal. Central Spain will be cloudy at times and the Algarve, the Balearics and the Spanish Costas will be largely warm and sunny. Highs 18-21 in the west, but 22-26C elsewhere.

Italy:
The whole of Italy will have a beautiful day with blue skies and plenty of sunshine in all areas. Highs will range between 24-28C.

Greece:
It will be dry and very warm with virtually unhindered sunshine, but a cooling breeze over the western islands. Highs 29C in the west, up to 30C inland in the north.

Around the world

Yesterday's lunchtime reports

Ajaccio	R	21	70	London	C	19	66
Algiers	C	25	77	L os Angeles	S	21	70
xxAlicante	C	25	77	Luxembourg	C	17	63
Amsterdam	C	17	63	Madrid	C	18	64
Athens	S	26	79	Majorca	C	26	79
Auckland	F	17	63	Malaga	C	22	72
B Aires	S	16	61	Malta	S	24	75
Bahrain	F	38	100	Melbourne	M	11	52
Bangkok	C	29	84	Mexico City	S	27	81
Barcelona	F	23	73	Miami	C	31	88
Beijing	S	27	81	Milan	S	25	77
Belgrade	F	25	77	Montreal	F	18	64
Berlin	C	21	70	Moscow	F	14	57
Bermuda	F	26	79	Munich	F	22	72
Biarritz	F	18	64	Nairobi	C	23	73
Bombay	S	35	95	Naples	F	22	72
Bordeaux	F	18	64	New Delhi	S	41	106
Boston	F	28	82	New Orleans	F	32	90
Brussels	C	19	66	New York	F	28	82
Budapest	C	25	77	Nice	Th	17	63
Cairo	S	29	84	Oporto	R	16	59
Calcutta	F	37	99	Oslo	F	22	72
Cape Town	F	22	72	Paris	C	17	63
Casablanca	F	23	73	Perth	C	23	73
Chicago	C	28	82	Prague	F	21	70
Copenhagen	R	16	61	Reykjavik	R	9	48
Corfu	F	23	73	Rhodes	S	23	73
Dallas	S	34	93	Rio de Jan.	C	22	72
Dhaka	C	34	93	Rome	F	22	72
Dublin	R	13	55	Sarajevo	F	25	77
Faro	R	19	66	Singapore	R	29	84
Florence	F	21	70	Stockholm	F	22	72
Frankfurt	C	22	72	Strasbourg	C	21	70
Funchal	F	22	72	Sydney	C	21	70
Geneva	C	20	68	Tel Aviv	F	26	79
Gibraltar	F	23	73	Tenerife	F	23	73
Helsinki	C	13	55	Tokyo	S	26	79
Hong Kong	M	27	81	Toronto	C	20	68
Innsbruck	F	22	72	Tunis	F	29	84
Istanbul	F	19	66	Vancouver	F	18	64
Jo'burg	S	19	66	Venice	M	19	66
K Lumpur	C	34	93	Vienna	C	19	66
Kingston	S	32	90	Warsaw	F	27	81
Larnaca	S	26	79	Washington	C	30	86
Lima	C	20	68	Wellington	F	16	61
Lisbon	R	18	61	Zurich	F	21	70

Forecast for the cities

Today

	max	min			max	min	
Algiers	26	19	S	London	22	13	F
Amsterdam	20	11	F	Madrid	24	14	C
Athens	29	19	S	Milan	26	16	F
Berlin	19	10	Sh	Nice	23	17	F
Bonn	20	11	F	Oslo	17	10	Th
Brussels	21	13	Sh	Paris	22	14	F
Copenhagen	18	10	Sh	Prague	20	9	Sh
Crete	25	18	S	Rome	24	13	F
Geneva	23	14	F	Stockholm	17	6	F
Larnaca	27	18	S	Tunis	32	19	S
Lisbon	20	13	R	Vienna	22	12	Sh

Tomorrow

	max	min			max	min	
Algiers	28	18	F	London	21	13	Sh
Amsterdam	22	13	F	Madrid	24	12	F
Athens	29	20	F	Milan	27	17	F
Berlin	21	14	F	Nice	23	17	F
Bonn	23	14	Th	Oslo	18	10	Sh
Brussels	22	14	Th	Paris	24	13	Sh
Copenhagen	18	10	F	Prague	22	12	F
Crete	26	18	F	Rome	25	14	F
Geneva	24	15	Th	Stockholm	18	6	Sh
Larnaca	27	18	S	Tunis	32	20	S
Lisbon	21	14	F	Vienna	24	14	F

Wednesday

	max	min			max	min	
Algiers	24	17	Th	London	21	11	Sh
Amsterdam	20	12	Sh	Madrid	26	13	F
Athens	30	20	F	Milan	27	17	C
Berlin	23	13	Sh	Nice	24	18	F
Bonn	23	12	Sh	Oslo	18	10	Sh
Brussels	20	12	Sh	Paris	23	14	F
Copenhagen	19	11	Sh	Prague	24	12	Th
Crete	26	19	F	Rome	26	15	F
Geneva	23	16	Sh	Stockholm	18	8	F
Larnaca	28	18	S	Tunis	31	21	S
Lisbon	22	14	F	Vienna	25	15	Sh

Thursday

	max	min			max	min	
Algiers	27	17	F	London	22	12	F
Amsterdam	21	12	F	Madrid	24	11	C
Athens	30	21	F	Milan	28	16	F
Berlin	23	13	Sh	Nice	24	16	Sh
Bonn	23	12	F	Oslo	17	10	Sh
Brussels	21	13	F	Paris	25	16	F
Copenhagen	17	9	Sh	Prague	24	13	F
Crete	26	19	F	Rome	27	16	S
Geneva	23	15	Sh	Stockholm	18	9	Sh
Larnaca	28	18	S	Tunis	31	20	F
Lisbon	22	15	F	Vienna	26	16	F

C, cloudy; Dr, drizzle; F, fair; Fg, fog; H, hail; R, rain; Sl, sleet; Sn, snow; S, sunny; Th, thunder. * (previous day's readings)

Television and radio

BBC 1

7.00am Business Breakfast. 8.00 BBC Breakfast News. 10.00 A Date with Fate. 10.29 Kilroy. 11.00 The General. 11.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 11.55 The Really Useful Show. 12.30 Who'll Do the Pudding? 1.00 News; Regional News. 1.05 Wogan's Web. 2.00 One O'Clock News. 2.30 Regional News. 2.40 The Weather Show. 2.45 Neighbours. 3.10 Ironside. 4.00 Through the Keyhole. 4.30 Children's BBC: Playdays. 4.50 Romuald the Reindeer. 5.00 Hubbub. 5.15 Casper. 5.35 50/50. 6.00 Newsround. 6.10 Blue Peter. 6.35 Neighbours. 7.00 Six O'Clock News. 7.30 Regional News Magazine. 8.00 Telly Addicts. 8.30 Here and Now. 9.00 EastEnders. 9.30 Kiss Me Kate. 10.00 Nine O'Clock News. 10.30 The Clampers. 11.00 Panorama. 11.45 Film '98 with Barry Norman. 12.15 FILM: Clockwise. 1.45 FILM: Deceptions. 3.25 Weather. 3.30 BBC News 24.

BBC 2

7.10am Images of Education. 8.00 Children's BBC: Teletubbies. 8.25 The Flintstone Comedy Show. 8.50 Blue Peter. 9.15 Funky Phantom. 9.35 Teddy Trucks. 9.45 Harry and the Hendersons. 10.10 Daytime on Two: Human Rights, Human Wrongs. 10.25 Relief Fife. 10.43 Storytime. 11.00 Children's BBC: Teletubbies. 11.30 Daytime on Two: Words and Pictures. 11.45 Job Bank. 12.00 Look and Read. 12.20 Zig Zag. 12.40 Landmarks. 1.00 Shakespeare: The Animated Tales. 1.30 Working Lunch. 2.00 Children's BBC: Oakie Doke. 2.10 FILM: Fathom. 3.50 News; Regional News. 3.55 Top Gear Motorsport. 4.25 News; Regional News. 4.30 The Victorian Kitchen Garden. 5.00 Real Rooms. 5.25 Ready, Steady, Cook. 5.55 Esther. 6.30 Today's the Day. 7.00 The Simpsons. 7.30 Space 1999. 8.15 They Who Dare. 9.00 Computers Don't Bite: The Beginners' Guide. 9.00 Birding with Bill Oddie. 9.30 The Travel Show. 10.00 Reputations. 11.00 Stressed Eric. 11.25 Video Nation Caribbean Shorts. 11.30 Newsnight. 12.15 Made in Manchester. 12.45 Gogs. 1.00 The Midnight Hour. 7.00 Close (at 5.10am).

BBC Prime

● Intelsat

7.00am World News. 7.25 World Weather. 7.30 Mr Wyns. 7.45 Blue Peter. 8.10 The Prince and the Pauper. 8.45 Style Challenge. 9.15 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 9.45 Kilroy. 10.30 Animals in Uniform. 11.00 Shadow of the Noose. 12.00 Change That. 12.30 Style Challenge. 12.45 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 1.15 Kilroy. 1.55 Songs of Praise. 2.30 Animals in Uniform. 3.00 Shadow of the Noose. 4.05 Change That. 4.35 Mr Wyns. 4.40 Blue Peter. 5.05 The Prince and the Pauper. 5.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 6.00 World News. 6.25 World Weather. 6.30 Wildlife. 7.00 Animals in Uniform. 7.30 Rick Stein's Taste of the Sea. 8.00 Porridge. 8.30 Birds of a Feather. 9.00 Hetty Wainthropp Investigates. 10.00 World News. 10.25 World Weather. 10.30 In Search of Cleopatra. 11.30 Tracks. 12.00 Love Hurts. 1.00 The Colonial Encounter.

BBC World

● Intelsat

7.00am World News. 7.30 Earth Report. 8.00 World News. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 Word News. 9.30 Future Fantastic. 10.00 World News. 10.30 World Focus: Correspondent. 11.00 World News. 11.30 Hard Talk. 12.00 World News. 12.30 Top Gear. 1.00 The World Today. 2.30 World Focus: Correspondent. 5.00 World News. 3.30 World Business Report. 6.30 The World Today. 4.30 Film '98 with Barry Norman. 5.00 World News. 5.30 Hard Talk. 6.00 World News. 6.30 Earth Report. 7.00 The World Today. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 World News. 9.30 World Focus: Window on Europe. 10.00 World News. 10.10 World Business Report. 10.00 Holiday - Fasten Your Seatbelt. 11.00 World News. 11.15 Europe Direct. 12.00 World News. 12.30 World Business Report. 12.45 Asia Today. 1.00 World Headlines. 1.05 USA Direct. 1.30 World Focus: Correspondent. 2.00 News. 2.30 Earth Report. 3.00 News. 3.30 Asia Today. 3.40 World Business Report. 4.00 News. 4.30 USA Direct. 5.00 News. 5.30 Asia Today. 5.40 World Business Report. 6.00 News. 6.30 World Focus: Window on Europe.

Radio 4

92.4-94.6 MHz; 198 kHz (1514)

7.00am Today. 10.00 Start the Week. 10.45 Serial: Amazonians. 10.45 (LW) Daily Service. 11.00 News; Woman's Hour. 12.00 News; Last Will and Testament. 12.30 Chambers. 1.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 1.00 News; You and Yours. 1.57 Weather. 2.00 The World at One. 2.30 Mastermind. 3.00 News; The Archers. 3.15 News; Afternoon Play: The Trouble You Bring Me. 4.00 Money Box Live: (0171) 580 4444. 4.30 The Things We Do. 4.45 Pot Luck. 5.00 News; The Food Programme. 5.30 Four Corners. 6.00 PM. 6.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast. 6.57 Weather. 7.00 Six O'Clock News. 7.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. 8.00 News; The Archers. 8.15 Front Row. 8.45 Postcards: Basic Magic. 9.00 News; An Inspector Calls. 9.30 Analysis. 10.00 News; Call of the Wild. 10.30 Start the Week. 11.00 The World Tonight. 11.45 Book at Bedtime: The Quest of the Holy Grail. 12.00 Radio 4 Appeal. 12.02 Late Night on 4: Weird Tales from the Slip-Road of Urban Parents. 12.30 (LW) Today in Parliament. 12.30 (FM) A Night With. 1.00 News. 1.30 The Late Book: Even the Stars Look Lonesome. 1.48 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 Farming Today.

BBC World Service

BBC World Service can be received in England on MW 648 kHz (463m) and in Western Europe on LW 198 kHz (1515m)

3.00am News. 3.15 Moments of Truth. 3.30 Omnibus. 9.00 News. 9.15 Off the Shelf. 9.30 The Vintage Chart Show. 10.00 News; (648 only) News in German. 10.15 Pause for Thought. 10.15 Newsdesk. 11.00 News. 11.05 World Business Report. 11.20 Record News. 11.30 Westway Access. 11.45 Sports Round-Up. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Omnibus. 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Jazzamatazz. 6.00 News; (648 only) News in German. 6.05 World Business Report. 6.15 Britain Today. 6.30 Seven Days. 6.45 Sports Round-Up. 7.00 News. 7.15 Insight. 7.30 Seven Days; (648 only) News in German. 7.45 Sports Round-Up. 8.00 Newsdesk. 8.30 Quote, Unquote. 9.00 News. 9.01 Outlook. 9.15 Pause for Thought. 9.00 Multitrack Hit List. 10.00 Newshour. 11.00 News. 11.05 World Business Report. 11.15 Britain Today. 11.30 Crisis in the House of David. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Insight. 12.45 Sports Round-Up. 1.00 News. 1.05 Outlook. 1.30 Multitrack Hit List. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Westway. 2.45 Britain Today. 3.00 Newsdesk. 3.30 Seven Days. 3.45 You and the Law. 4.00 Newsday. 4.30 On Screen. 5.00 News. 5.05 World Business Report. 5.15 Sports Round-Up. 5.30 The World Today. 8.00 The World Today.

Sky Movies Screen 1

● Astra

7.00 Through the Olive Trees. 8.45 Rhinestone. 10.35 Alaska. 12.35 Unstrung Heroes. 2.15 Rhinestone. 4.00 Dallas: JR Returns. 6.00 Alaska. 7.50 Unstrung Heroes. 9.25 The Movie Show. 10.00 Bio-Dome. 11.45 The Killing Jar. 1.30 The Price of Love. 3.05 Galaxies are Colliding. 4.45 Mother, May I Sleep with Danger.

Sky Movies Screen 2

● Astra

7.00 After Jimmy. 9.00 Chad Hanna. 11.00 The Sky Palace. 1.00 The Last American Hero. 2.00 Chad Hanna. 6.00 The Sky Palace. 7.00 After Jimmy. 8.30 Special Features: The Cannes Film Festival. 9.00 Mrs Winterbourne. 11.00 Two Days in the Valley. 12.45 The Odyssey. 3.15 When Friendship Kills. 4.50 The Masque of the Red Death.

Sky Movies Gold

● Astra

5.00 The Man from Colorado. 6.40 Cast a Giant Shadow. 9.00 Great Balls of Fire! 11. 11.00 She-Devil. 12.40 Mississippi Burning. 2.45 Flesh and Blood. 4.50 Back Street. 5.30 Close.

Sky Sports

● Astra

8.00 Cycling. 8.00 Stunt Motorcycling. 10.00 Racing News. 10.30 Aerobics Oz Style. 11.00 Super League. 1.00 Aerobics Oz Style. 1.30 This Week In Baseball. 2.00 Live European PGA Golf: Deutsche Bank Open. 5.00 High Five. 5.30 Ten-Pin Bowling: World Masters. 6.30 Survival of the Fittest. 7.00 Sports Centre. 7.30 All-Terrain Marathon. 8.30 European PGA Golf: Deutsche Bank Open. 11.00 Sports Centre. 12.30 International Football Special: England - Ready or Not? 1.30 Sports Centre. 2.00 International Bowls. 4.00 Ten-Pin Bowling: World Masters. 5.00 Sports Centre. 5.30 Close.

Sky Sports 3

● Astra

1.00 Ten-Pin Bowling: World Masters. 2.00 All Terrain Marathon. 3.00 NFL Europe: American Football. 5.30 Cycling. 7.30 High Five. 8.30 Fish TV. 9.00 International Bowls. 11.00 Sports Classics. 12.00 Golden Moments of the Olympics. 12.30 Close.

Eurosport

● Astra/Eutelsat

8.30 Sailing. 9.30 International U21 Football. 11.00 Live Tennis: French Open. 4.00 Live Cycling. 6.00 Live Tennis: French Open. 8.00 Extreme Sports. 8.00 Football: Road to the World Cup. 10.00 Athletics. 11.00 Tennis: French Open. 12.00 Boxing. 1.00 Motorcycling. 1.30 Close.

Sky 1

● Astra

8.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills. 8.30 Games World. 8.45 The Simpsons. 9.15 Oprah. 10.00 Hotel. 11.00 Another World. 12.00 Days of Our Lives. 1.00 Married - With Children. 1.30 MASH. 2.00 Geraldo. 3.00 Sally Jessy Raphael. 4.00 Jenny Jones. 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. 7.00 The Nanny. 7.30 Married - With Children. 8.00 The Simpsons. 8.30 Real TV. 9.00 Star Trek: Voyager. 10.00 Sliders. 11.00 Chicago Hope. 12.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. 1.00 Police Rescue. 2.00 Long Play.

National Geographic

● Astra

8.00 All Aboard Zaire's Amazing Bazaar. 9.30 Deep Sight. 9.00 Antarctic Challenge. 9.30 Okinawa - The Generous Sea. 10.00 The Last Frog. 10.30 Extreme Earth. 11.00 A Marriage in Rajasthan. 12.00 Serval: the Elegant Predator. 12.30 Lunge Lizards. 1.00 30 Years of National Geographic Specials. 2.00

UK Gold

● Astra

8.00 Never the Twain. 8.30 Neighbours. 9.00 Crossroads. 9.25 EastEnders. 10.00 The Bill. 10.30 Howards' Way. 11.00 Shelley. 11.30 The Sullivans. 12.00 Casualty. 1.00 Crossroads. 1.25 Neighbours. 1.55 EastEnders. 2.30 Some Mothers Do Ave Em. 3.05 Open All Hours. 3.45 Dangerfield. 4.45 The Bill. 5.15 Juliet Bravo. 6.00 EastEnders. 6.55 Big Break. 7.30 The Bill. 8.00 Last of the Summer Wine. 8.40 Yes, Minister. 9.30 Butterflies. 10.00 Casualty. 11.05 Taggart. 12.10 Sports Annorak of the Year. 12.45 Between the Lines. 1.35 Spitting Image. 2.15 Best of the Old Grey Whistle Test. 2.45 The Equalizer. 3.30 Shopping at Night.

NBC Superchannel

● Astra/Eutelsat

8.00 European Money Wheel. 12.00 Intermight. 1.00 Time and Again. 2.00 European Living: Flavours of Italy. 2.30 VIP. 3.00 The Today Show. 4.00 Gardening by the Yard. 4.30 Interiors by Design. 5.00 Time and Again. 6.00 Europe a la Carte. 6.30 VIP. 7.00 Europe Tonight. 7.30 The Ticket. 8.00 Dateline. 8.00 Super Sports: Major League Baseball Highlights. 10.00 Jay Leno. 11.00 Conan O'Brien. 12.00 The Ticket. 12.30 Nightly News. 1.00 Jay Leno. 2.00 Intermight. 2.00 VIP. 3.30 Travel Xpress. 4.00 The Ticket. 4.30 Flavours of Italy. 5.00 News. 8.00 Europe Today. 6.00 Europe Today.

Discovery

● Astra/Intelsat

6.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing World. 6.30 Bush Tucker Man. 6.00 First Flights. 8.30 Time Travellers. 7.00 Animal Doctor. 7.30 Man Eating Tigers. 8.30 Disaster. 9.00 Ancient Warriors. 9.30 Bush Tucker Man. 10.00 Lonely Planet. 11.00 Hitler's Henchmen. 12.00 Wings: Eagle Over Lebanon. 1.00 First Flights. 1.30 Disaster. 2.00 Extreme Machines. 3.00 Close.

هكذا من الاصل

Spice Girls split

Four will become none, and probably sooner rather than later

Pop critic Caroline Sullivan on the limited future of a phenomenon

SO FAREWELL then, Ginger. And farewell, prnbably snoner rather than later, Scary, Sporty, Baby and Posh.

Although the remaining four maintain they'll carry on withnnt their de facto leader, history is against them. The Supremes never recovered from Diana Ross's departure, the Jackson Five were sunk when Michael went aolo, and Take That eplit np six months after Robbie Williams left.

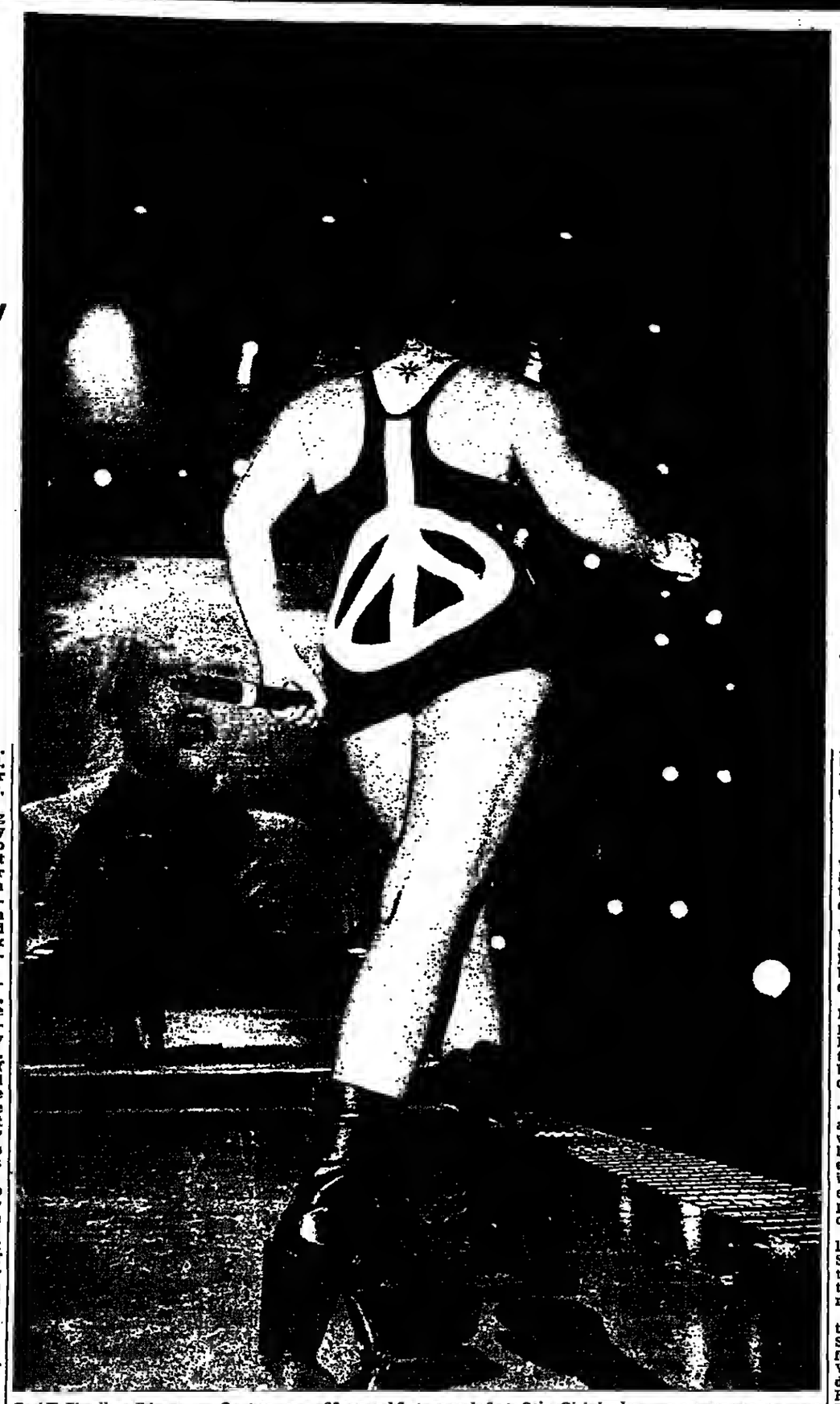
When the Spice phenomenon does end — as it must, given the void left by the member who most embodied Girl Power — obscurity beckons, except for Ginger, a future chat-show host if ever there was one, and Sporty, the one with the best voice. The other three are about to discover that the words "ex-Spice Girl" dnn't open many doors — as various ex-Take Thats could confirm.

Not that they need to work; they have supposedly earned £13 million each in just under two years.

But the money may not compensate for the loss of the celebrity who was their drtving force. The girls have always admitted fame was their primary goal, overriding considerations like talent, or lack thereof.

That eort of attitude earned them the enmity of the rock establishment, who viewed their stage-school beginnings with disgnst. They were not e "proper" band — which, perversely, aided their rise to the top. Unimpeded by concerns about credibility, the girls did whatever was necessary, with no TV show too naff, no promotional tie-in too embarrassing.

Speaking of which, what will happen to all the lollipops and body sprays emblazoned with Geri's smile?



Geri Halliwell: walking away after two years of fame and fortune as de facto Spice Girls leader PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD YOUNG

For the Spice Girls mnsic was more a marketing tool than an artistic passion; none the less, they have produced some pretty good records — Wannebe and Spice Up Ynur Life. These trashy pop classics will survive as have Abba's Weterloo and Wham!'a Young Guns.

In fact, expect a Sptce revival sometime around 2020, when their little-girl core endience hit their 30s and become nostalgic. That is if the little girls have not formed bands of their own by then.

The true importance of "Girl Power" may not be apparent fnr another decade or so, when wnmen no longer encounter impediments to careers in music. But It is also possible that the Spice Girls could go the way of Frankie Goes to Hollywood. Though the most controversial band of the early 80s, they were forgotten almost as soon as they broke np. They left behind T-shirts reading "Frankie Say Arm The Unemployed", which now sound as quaint as the Spices' slogans might to future generations.

Only ttme will tell if Ginger and company really have made a difference, apart from making slnt clothes trendy. As it stands, the only real barrier they have surmounted is that separattng art and commerce.

Geri Halliwell's statement:

This is a message to the fans. Sadly I would like to confirm that I have left the Spice Girls. This is because of differences between us. I'm sure the group will continue to be successful and I wish them all the best. I have no immediate plans. I wish to apologise to all the fans and to thank them and everyone who's been there.

Lots of love, Geri.

PS, I'll be back.

Spice Girls' statement:

We are upset and saddened by Geri's departure but we are very supportive in whatever she wants to do. The Spice Girls are here to say — see you at the stadiums!

We are sorry to all our fans for having to go through all of this.

All our love, Victoria, Emma, Mel C, Mel B.

Friendship never ends!

Ginger Spice and the bubble that went pop

THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN LIBRARY SERIALS No. CLASS DATE

THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN LIBRARY SERIALS No. CLASS DATE SEP 1998

Helen Carter

WHEN Nelson Mandele declared that the greatest moment in his life was meeting his heroines the Spice Girls, the band knew they had reached the pinnacle of their popularity.

Flanked by Prince Charles, who said that it was "the second greatest moment of his life", the band couldn't bave received a better endorsement.

Yet days after meeting the Prince and the South African president last November in Pretoria, it became clear that their steep rise was about to be followed by an equally precipitous fall.

Four days later they sacked "Svengali Spice", their manager, Simon Fuller, and a week after that they were booed off stage by an audience at an awards ceremony in Bercelone. The Mirror even ran a "wannaboo" telephone line, where readers could listen to the jeering.

Only 700,000 of the 1.2 million copies of the album Spiceworld had been sold in the run-up to Christmas, although it went on to sell nine million copies worldwide.

They faced further humiliation when the readers of Smash Hits, the pop magazine for teenagers, voted them Worst Group and went on to decide that Ginger Spice, Geri Halliwell, was the Worst-Dressed and Least Fanciable.

The band refused to be written off even though their first feature-length film, Spiceworld The Movte, released on Boxing Day, was dismissed by the critics as being boring, unoriginal and a "dry, tasteless turkey".

The Spice Girls were the ultimate in manufactured pop groups who could barely sing a note when they got together four years ago, but that didn't stop Ginger, Baby, Sporty, Scary and Posh yearning for success.

Ginger once earned a living as a topless model and a game-show hostess on Turkish television, and became the band's natural leader with her feisty character and repeated declaration of the mantra: "Girl power".

It was not surprising that she was the first one to quit the band, for she was the one who led the revolt against their manager.

Geri, aged 25, the oldest band member, also attended high-powered business meetings with executives and lawyers and cheekily pinched Prince Charles's bottom when he met the girls.

> 'Geri always tells us what we're doing every day. She gets the whip out'

For many she epitomised the Spice Girls, with her outrageously tight outfits, platform shoes, thick make-up and bright red hair.

In their official book Girl Power! Posh Spice revealed who was in charge: "Geri always tells us what we're doing every day. She gets the whip out and makes sure we work properly." Sporty added: "Geri has always been e bossy big mouth."

She certainly left the other girls fuming on Wednesday night when she pulled out of the BBC's National Lottery draw, just before it went on air.

The mystery ebout her whereabouts deepened when she refused to fly to Norway for performances with the band last Thursday and Friday night and the whispers that she was leaving became louder and louder.

Band officials claimed she was suffering from e stomach bug and was exhausted, but it soon became apparent that she was just sick of being a Spice Girl after a series of rows with the other girls. She broke the news to them in a phone call on Tbursdey morning.

Geri has been hiding somewhere on mainland Europe since quitting the band.

The band was manufactured by Boh Herbert in 1994. After interviewing 400 starstruck wannahes, be nerrowed it down to five girls who formed Touch — later emerging as the Spice Girls.

The group consisted of Halliwell, Sporty — Melanie Chisholm, from Cheshire, Baby, aka Emma Bunton, from Finchley, north London, Scary, aka Melanie Brown, from Leeds, and Posh, aka Victoria Adams, from Hertfordshire.

After a year of fine-tuning their vocal and choreographic talent, with the help of Fuller, the band signed to Virgin in 1995.

They had their first British number one a year later with Wannabe, followed by the hugely successful album Spice, which earned them £30 million.

The group received a clutch of awards — more than Oasis — including Brits and Ivor Novellos. They also endorsed a range of products from deodorants to soft drinks, dolls and clothing.

But November 1997 was e real turning point in the band.

In an interview last year, Geri said: "My best and worst hits of the year were probably the same thing. The week of November 5 1997. Because it was the most frightening and exhilarating thing we did."

It also signalled the beginning of the end for the Spice Girls.

Leader, page 9

Dewar faces pay scandal

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR was hit by another council scandal yesterday when the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, ordered an investigation into North Lanarkshire, where a council plumber can earn £54,000 a year.

The plumbers are employed by a direct labour organisation with an unexplained £4.8 million black hole in its accounts.

Auditors found that a plumber on £10,600 basic could earn £36,000 in overtime and £17,500 in bonuses to take his annual pay to £54,100.

This, said the auditors, implied a 14-hour-day, seven days a week, excluding holidays — a "highly questionable" state of affairs.

Similar patterns existed in other jobs within the direct labour organisation, or DLO, a team of council-employed building workers which formerly did all repairs on council housing stock and other work, but must now tender for council contracts in competition with private firms.

Mr Dewar, in a Scottish Office statement, said he had the power to order the council to make its tendering process more rigorous or to close the entire DLO, and would not hesitate to do so if the findings went against the council.

"I have had information from the council and reports from my officials which, on the face of it, showed a level of failure which the Government cannot tolerate." He served a statutory notice on the council, the first step towards taking legal action.

North Lanarkshire is the successor to Monklands council, bedevilled by scandals in the early 1990s, though allegations of sectarianism remain unproved.

North Lanarkshire's chief executive, Andrew Cowe, has admitted that the auditors' preliminary investigation amounted to a "damning indictment". A senior official has been suspended, and the council has said it will call in the police to investigete, if necessary.

A chargehand on a basic of £12,200 could earn, with overtime and bonus payments, £41,700, while a scaffolder on £9,900 could earn a total of £32,900. The preliminary report said the department's budget was "almost an irrelevance", and prices were set at over-competitive or unsustainable levels.

The Scottish National Party said: "No amount of tough talk or belated action from Donald Dewar can disguise the fact it is a Labour council which has inflicted this mess on the people of North Lanarkshire, and a Labour council which has jeopardised council workers' jobs."

DLOs were commonplace until the 1980s, offering employment and training as well as an in-house service, until legislation obliged councils to put all work out to tender, though some DLOs successfully adapted.

Diana's death clinches case against privacy laws

Opposing privacy laws, biographers Tom Bower and Gitta Sereny... 'Faustian pact'

Rory Carroll

THE campaign against a privacy law has scored a victory aided by a novel argument: Diana, Princess of Wales died because of insufficient media intrusion.

Had journaliets more thoronghly invaded Mohamed Al Fayed's privacy they would have discovered he was e creep, Diana would have dumped Dodi and there would have been no drive through the Alma tunnel.

An audience of 500 sunburned bookbnyers voted against the Hay festival debate motion that the private livee of pnblic figures should remain private. This was an unexpected blow to the intellect and ego of the New Yorker magazine team which argued in favour: Stephen Fry, actor and writer, Robert Bennett, President Clinton's ettorney, and Adam Gopnik, a New Yorker writer.

Surprised by victory sat the Sunday Times opposition: ex-Times Simon Jenkins, Tom Bower and Gitta Sereny, both biographers.

Most people told the Guardian's straw poll they would vote for a privacy law.

Being among the 35,000 visitors to descend on the Welsh border village of Hay for a literary festival did not mean they supported unfettered free speech.

Mr Jenkins said public figures knowingly entered a Faustian pact of press scrutiny in exchange for power.

"Laws on privecy have not worked in any country. They only put money in lawyers' profits."

Mr Bennett conntered: "We most have a society in which people of talent run for pnblic office. Do we really want our political people to be in the college of cardinals wanting to be Pope?"

He added: "Remember what Aldous Huxely wrote: chastity is the most unnatural of all sexual perversions."

Mr Fry argued: "Some people think there is some connection between the penis and probity. There isn't. Should we have captions every time somebody appears on TV saying so and so last masturbated on Tuesday?"

Then Gitta Sereny stood up to rebnt. She knew the audience was receptive. Earlier she had done a book signing of Cries Unheard, her biography of child murderer Mary Bell. "There are books which can't be written unless yon bear about private lives."

From the floor Michael Ignatieff, historian, challenged: "There has been an assumption that people in the public eye set out to get publicity. Was Mary Bell's 14-year-old daughter a public figure? I think not."

Harold Evans, ex-Sunday Times editor, said he would snppnrt Jenkins, Sereny and Bower if they agreed their sex and private lives, as journalists who wrote ebont pnblic fignres, should also be fair game for scrutiny.

A strained Yes and Evans was on board, along with two thirds of the audience, who opposed the motion.

Banks sacrifices World Cup seat for England fans

Ewen MacAskill

TONY BANKS is to sacrifice his seat at the World Cup in a show of solidarity with England fans left without tickets.

The Sports Minister is protesting at the mess the World Cup organisers have made of ticketing.

He said yesterday that even if England were to reach the final, be would watch the match on a wide-screen with other fans in England; be would not be "comfortable" using his position to get to the games.

He has persuaded the Prime Minister to issue an edict that one minister only should ettend each game, fearful of the image presented if resentful fans were to see lots of ministers in attendance.

But Scottish ministers and MPs take a more relaxed view, and are intent on going to Scotland games in numbers. Tony Blair and the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, are to attend the opening World Cup game, Scotland against Brazil, e week on Wednesday.

Other ministers and MPs will attend in a private capacity, paying their own way, including the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Mr Banks adopted a diplomatic position yesterday with regard to Scotland: "I am the English sports minister. Our English fans have been very vociferous on this matter. I am listening very carefully to what our fans are saying and setting an example bere."

Earlier, speaking at the Football Supporters' Association's annual conference in Wolverhampton, Mr Banks called for a regulatory body to protect the interests of fans.

Mr Banks, who criticised widespread rises in the cost of season tickets, told ebout 200 associetion members: "A regulatory body is now being called for. Football fans are saying 'Who can we turn to?'

"The fact is that football fans are getting more and more frustrated at not being able to get redress for some of the genuine problems we have got in football."

The mintster cited the media as an example of an industry with e voluntary regulatory body that worked, and said the Government might impose e similar body if football officialdom did not introduce one voluntarily.

On the World Cup, be said: "I actually am not going to go out of protest because of the wey the (ticket) system operates, or doesn't operate.

"It strikes me that if I say to people, 'Don't go if you heven't got e ticket', then I don't want anyone taking a picture of me eitting in the VIP section and saying, 'It's all right for you, mister, but what about the rest of us'?"

News in brief

Judge throws out Ortega charges

CHARGES of rape, indecent assault and sexual harassment filed last week against Nicaragua's Sandinista leader, Daniel Ortega, by his stepdaughter were thrown out at the weekend on a legal technicality.

The chief judge of the Managua criminal court, Marta Quezada, ruled that the charges should have been filed in a sealed writ, not an open one, and should therefore not be proceeded with. The decision provoked outrage from women's groups, who were due to stage a spate of demonstrations late yesterday. Lawyers for Mr Ortega's stepdaughter, Zoilamérica Narváez, said yesterday that they would seek to refile the charges.

Ms Narváez is due to go to the parliament today to persuade the deputies to lift Mr Ortega's immunity from prosecution, which he enjoys as a constitutional right unless stripped of it by the deputies. — *Ed Vulliamy, Managua.*

Blow for Iran's moderates

A LEADING hardline opponent of Mohammed Khatami, Iran's moderate president, was re-elected yesterday as head of the country's powerful parliament. The official Islamic Republic News Agency reported that two-thirds of MPs voted to reinstate Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri as Speaker for his third term. The 12 members of the parliament's presiding board, Mr Nateq-Nouri's two deputies, three clerks and six secretaries were also re-elected, the agency said. President Khatami's opponents have used their hold on the parliament to try to stall his reforms. — *AP, Tehran.*

'No plot against World Cup'

FRENCH justice sources said no plot against the World Cup had been uncovered following the arrest of suspected Islamic militants last week as part of a Europe-wide sweep by police. But the suspects had planned to assassinate a leading Muslim moderate in Paris, police said.

Sixteen of the 53 suspects, believed to be members of a logistical support network for Algeria's Islamic Armed Group (GIA), are still being held after their arrests on Tuesday. Police said some of those detained were believed to be involved in a plot to assassinate Dalil Boubakeur, rector of the main mosque in Paris and probably France's best-known moderate. A *fatwa* signed by the GIA and calling for Mr Boubakeur's death was found in a suspect's car, the sources said. — *Jon Henley, Paris.*

Air France strike looms

AIR FRANCE, the official World Cup carrier, was braced yesterday for a strike today by its main pilots' union that will severely disrupt the airline's schedules in the run-up to the tournament and could continue beyond kick-off day on June 10.

The airline says it needs to cut £50 million from its wage bill. No further meeting between the pilots — among the best-paid in the world — and the management is planned before the strike, due to last two weeks.

Air France said it would operate only 10 per cent of longhaul flights and about a fifth of shorthaul flights for the first four days of the walkout, when a number of smaller unions have called sympathy strikes. France's main rail unions have also announced a 36-hour strike from June 4 and warned it could be extended if their demands are not met. — *Jon Henley, Paris.*

Tornado wipes out town

A TORNADO that struck on Saturday evening without warning wiped out the small town of Spencer in South Dakota, killing six people and injuring another 150, officials said yesterday.

"This is like a war zone — like Hiroshima, like Nagasaki," Governor William Janklow said after visiting what was left of the town, 50 miles west of Sioux Falls.

One resident, Tammy Kreutzfeld, said the only warning she had was the sound of the storm bearing down on the town of 300. She and six of her family fled to the basement. "We screamed when we heard the sound . . . and the [atmospheric] pressure was so bad. Then the house blew off the foundation. We looked up and we could see the the tornado overhead."

She added: "People couldn't believe we were still alive after they saw our house." — *Reuters, Sioux Falls.*

Gays refused communion

THE Roman Catholic archbishop of Melbourne, George Pell, refused communion to about 50 homosexual protesters who queued for the Eucharist yesterday. The group said it attended the Mass to challenge the Church's ban on practising homosexuals receiving communion.

The archbishop told the congregation at St Patrick's Cathedral that homosexual acts were contrary to natural law and that the group was ineligible for communion, as were heterosexual couples engaged in adultery.

Instead he offered blessings to the protesters and, at the end of the Mass, told the congregation that he would be praying for them. — *AP, Melbourne.*

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Colombian police search voters in Bogotá as they queue in yesterday's election to find a successor to scandal-plagued President Ernesto Samper. At least nine people died in guerrilla attacks, including three killed by a bomb blast in the north-eastern town of Barrancabermeja. Rebels kidnapped at least 14 election officials PHOTOGRAPH: PEDRO UGARTE

Clinton 'will not testify'

Martin Kettle in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton will refuse to testify if the independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr attempts to subpoena him to appear before a grand jury investigating the Monica Lewinsky affair, Time magazine reported yesterday.

The magazine said Mr Clinton and his advisers had decided that he should not co-operate with the legal process.

If Mr Clinton's willingness to co-operate is ultimately tested, Time claims, the White House will let the issues be resolved in a formal impeachment process in front of Congress rather than in a courtroom.

Mr Clinton and his team believe that impeachment proceedings, though embarrassing for a president, would have even more catastrophic political repercussions for the Republican Party, which would appear to be mounting a witch-hunt against a twice-elected president.

On past evidence, Time is more likely to have been provided with accurate information by the White House than its rival Newsweek, which is regarded by some advisers as part of a conspiracy against Mr Clinton.

When asked about the Time report, the White House communications director, Ann Lewis, said on CNN television: "I don't have that information."

In an interview yesterday, Mr Starr's spokesman, Charles Bakaly, did not rule out the possibility that Mr Clinton would be subpoenaed in the Lewinsky investigation.

Legal experts are divided on whether it is possible to indict a sitting president for a criminal offence.

Most believe a president cannot be indicted, but Mr Bakaly, presumably reflecting Mr Starr's thinking, said yesterday that the issue was not clear-cut. "We're not sure that's the only answer there," he said.

Mr Clinton is, however, expected to agree today to Mr Starr's application for an early hearing by the supreme court on whether White House aides should be able to claim executive privilege.

Mr Starr is demanding that two senior White House aides, Bruce Lindsey and Sidney Blumenthal, testify to the Lewinsky grand jury about their conversations with Mr Clinton concerning allegations that the president was having an affair with the former intern.

Both have so far refused, on the grounds that such conversations are covered by executive privilege and must remain confidential. A federal judge has ruled against the aides, who are appealing. Mr Starr wants that process speeded up.

Mr Clinton has until 4.30pm to file his response to Mr Starr's request for an immediate supreme court hearing.

Mr Starr wants to avoid a full sequence of lower court appeals which would end at the supreme court anyway.

Even if the White House agrees to Mr Starr's application, the supreme court could still postpone the case until the autumn.

If Mr Clinton were to co-operate with Mr Starr's latest initiative it would represent an untypical approach by the White House, which has so far tried to block every move by the prosecutor.

The only recent example of Mr Clinton's team taking the initiative to expedite any of the legal processes against him was when his private lawyers moved to have the Paula Jones civil action brought forward to an earlier hearing.

The Jones suit was later dismissed by a judge.

Affable scientist seizes spotlight to talk peace

Suzanne Goldenberg in Islamabad meets a local nuclear hero

Abdul Qadeer Khan (right), at a ceremony with President Tarar PHOTOGRAPH: K. M. CHAUDHRY

A DAY after Pakistan blew up a sixth nuclear device below the earth's surface, Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of his country'a bomb, said he believed the explosions had cleared the way for peace.

"I hope sanity prevails," he told the Guardian yesterday. "These tests will help India realise that bullying and fighting wars won't help."

Dr Khan, a disarmingly friendly man in his sixties, who shuns the high rhetoric of local politicians, is a hero to many Pakistanis, though his public appearances are restricted.

After 22 lonely years as director of a clandestine nuclear programme whose scientists were regularly accused of stealing nuclear technology, he was allowed his moment of glory yesterday and held his first press conference.

And he wanted the moment to last. After it ended, Dr Khan slipped out of his safari suit and into a striped shirt and returned to join the Guardian for a chat on the pavement outside his sprawling home, which is guarded by 60 men.

"I have no doubt, no reservations that it is a destructive weapon. But if you ask anybody who knows me they will say I am the kindest person," he said. "I feed birds, I feed the monkeys that come here, I even feed ants. But I believe this is a peace guarantor. It gave peace to Europe for 50 years. Now it has given us peace because India and Pakistan realise it would be insane to go to war, and they will want to sit down and have talks."

Dr Khan shares his optimism with Pakistan's most senior diplomat, Shahmshad Ahmed, who followed his announcement of Saturday's blast by saying the time had come for reconciliation. "Pakistan today assures the international community, and in particular India, of our willingness to enter into immediate discussions to address all matters of peace and security," he said.

> 'It is a destructive weapon. But if you ask, anybody will say I am the kindest person. I feed birds, I even feed ants'

Indian officials yesterday issued similar appeals for a global effort to prevent a nuclear arms race.

In a further sign that Pakistan and India are seeking to cool things down after weeks of fiery exchanges, Dr Khan said Saturday's tests — originally planned for two devices — had been scaled back to a single blast for political reasons.

He also said his nuclear mission was all but accomplished: Pakistan would conduct no more tests for now, although it would carry out missile tests, perfecting the means of delivering a nuclear attack.

With Islamabad's appetite for more tests apparently sated, some analysts argue that Pakistan's and India's accession to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is inevitable, and the hostility to such a notion expressed by some officials is simply a bargaining tactic.

Amid such small nudges back from the brink, however, a junior Indian diplomat was severely beaten yesterday morning outside his Islamabad home. In New Delhi, India's foreign ministry summoned the Pakistani high commissioner and lodged a protest.

Such skirmishes barely penetrate the bougainvillaea-draped walls of Dr Khan's lavish home, which he shares with his Dutch-born wife and a parrot, Polly. Dr Khan waited for five years after the creation of the Muslim homeland in 1947 before leaving his native Bhopal in central India. He professes to hold no rancour for the land of his birth. "Whoever is an enemy is an enemy for a very short time," he said.

He is much less willing to forgive Washington's and New Delhi's scepticism about Pakistan's nuclear capability. "Anything we do either they say we stole it or got it from someone else. We never get the credit for being able to do anyting ourselves expect maybe produce heroin and *charas* [cannabis], and even that they say comes from Afghanistan."

He is also reluctant to extend the credit to the man behind India's nuclear tests, A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. "From where did he get his doctorate?" he asked. Dr Khan, as he points out repeatedly, studied at German and Dutch universities, returning from the Netherlands in 1976 with the secrets of enriching uranium.

The Pakistani government was so thrilled at his arrival that it gave him charge of the Kahuta Research Laboratories, a heavily guarded nuclear complex where some 2,000 PhDs toil away at the country's missile programme.

He reveals an almost child-like delight in the work at Kahuta, including the test firing of the long-range Ghauri missile in April. "It flew over most of our cities and landed on target."

Dr Khan is far more modest about achieving nuclear capability in 1987, claiming that all the information any scientist could need is in books. "Making bombs is no problem, maybe 50 or 60 countries are capable of making bombs," he said.

Mexican mafia is blamed for priest's killing

Sam Dillon in San Juan Ozololtepec

WHEN the lone telephone in this mountain hamlet rang recently, it was the Archbishop of Oaxaca with bitter news: San Juan's priest, the Rev Mauro Ortiz Carreno, was dead.

His death shocked the black-shawled women and sandal-wearing farmers who live here. The priest, aged 42, was seized on May 6 in the southern city of Oaxaca and killed, mob-style, with one shot to the head. The police found his body in the boot of a car.

No one has been charged. Ortiz's parishioners as well as Church leaders blame a gang that they say controls the drug industry in Oaxaca's Sierra Madre del Sur. When traffickers burned virgin mountain forests this spring to clear new marijuana plantations, Ortiz denounced the drug culture, they said.

The official version of Ortiz's killing is very different. The Oaxaca state attorney-general, Roberto Martinez Ortiz, said the main suspect was a man to whose former wife Ortiz lent $1,250 (£800).

The priest had been pressing the woman to pay interest, Mr Martinez said, and the authorities think that Ortiz was killed to cancel the debt.

Statements by Archbishop Hector Gonzalez Martinez appeared to accept the government account. But other Church authorities scoffed.

"Father Mauro was no usurer," Bishop Miguel Angel Alba said. "This is a self-serving version invented by the government so that no one will think drug mafias are operating in Oaxaca. We suspect that authorities ordered this murder."

San Juan sits in a remote valley, shaded by pine and spruce, five hours' drive south of Oaxaca city. Whether baptising parishioners in the village's 17th-century chapel or instructing catechists, Ortiz was the centre of San Juan's spiritual and intellectual life.

He was so beloved that Tereso Hernandez, San Juan'e mayor, said he feared a lynching if parishioners identified the killer. "People are crazed with sorrow," he said.

Guadalupe Aragon, a village council member, challenged the portrayal of Ortiz as a greedy moneylender. Sometimes the priest responded to parishioners' pleas by lending a few pesos here and there, Mr Aragon said, but he never sought to profit.

What could have provoked the killing? Ortiz had aroused the anger of powerful people before. He received death threats when he denounced the embezzlement of timber-cutting fees by officials.

But Gabriel Silva, San Juan's treasurer, voiced a stronger suspicion.

He said residents in San Francisco Ozololtepec, a bordering hamlet, cultivated marijuana and patrolled their plantations wielding rifles. When their fires spread to San Juan's forests, Ortiz told San Francisco parishioners to replace their mayor.

Back in San Juan, Ortiz denounced the drug culture and the burning of forests.

Officials in San Juan and the Church authorities in Oaxaca said that the traffickers in the Sierra Madre were protected by a network that appeared to include state government officials.

> Father Ortiz had denounced the drug culture and burning of forests

"I don't know anything about any mafia," said Israel Jarquin Magno, the state government delegate with jurisdiction over San Juan and San Francisco. Mr Jarquin said he had no information about drug cultivation in the Oaxaca mountains.

Ortiz was buried near Oaxaca where he was born. But his parishioners gathered nine days later for an all-night memorial to say the rosary.

At dawn, musicians sounded an Indian dirge as villagers trudged to a cemetery bearing a wooden cross honouring the dead pastor.

A mourner, Severina Heredia, described the impact of the priest's death. "Our world has turned black," she said. — *New York Times.*

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Bomber's killers engineer a cover-up

In a Guardian exclusive, **Julian Borger** in Ramallah reveals strong evidence that Yasser Arafat's regime is colluding with Israel's Shin Bet to conceal the true assassins of Hamas's chief bomb-maker

IT WAS another Sunday in the Middle East peace process. A United States negotiating team was in town trying to broker a new deal while the Israeli and Palestinian leaders were blaming each other for cheating on agreements already signed.

The diplomatic coming and going obscured another story on the local news on the evening of March 29. There had been an explosion in a workshop in the West Bank city of Ramallah. At least one body had been found in the rubble near the mangled remains of a Fiat Uno car.

The first accounts differed on whether the blast had been an industrial accident or a terrorist bomb exploding prematurely. But as it happened in a Palestinian area and no Israelis were hurt, it was treated as an obscure and relatively insignificant event.

That was, until the body was identified. Three days later, the Palestinian Authority announced that the dead man was Muhiyideen Sharif, the notorious "Second Engineer" who, as Hamas's chief bomb-maker, had masterminded a string of devastating suicide attacks against Israeli civilians.

More than two months later, the circumstances of Sharif's death remain a mystery whose implications are as explosive as ever. Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority (PA) has attributed the killing to an internal Hamas power struggle, but the official account is profoundly flawed.

Instead, the Guardian has found convincing evidence that the PA is striving to cover up the facts behind the assassination, in a bid to crush Hamas and win favour in Washington. As part of that cover-up, the body of a mysterious second victim of the blast has vanished and a leg was sawn off Sharif's corpse, in an apparent attempt to destroy evidence.

At least a hundred people have been detained, many of them tortured, because they challenged the official version of events. And the Palestinian press has been cowed into silence.

The stakes involved in Sharif's death are incalculable. He was known as the "Second Engineer" because he was the student and successor of the first, Yihye Ayash, Hamas's bomb-making specialist who was assassinated in January 1996 by a booby-trapped mobile phone planted by Israel's security service, Shin Bet.

Following Ayash's assassination, Hamas launched a string of retaliatory bomb attacks in Israel that turned the tide against the Oslo peace process, setting off the downward spiral that continues today.

With that precedent, the US state department scrambled to counter the risk of Hamas reprisals for Sharif's death. "Arafat was bombarded with calls," said a Palestinian official. The head of Shin Bet, Ami Ayalon, went in person to talk to the Palestinian leader.

RIGHT away, the official Palestinian account of the Ramallah explosion changed dramatically. After pointing the finger at the Israelis for six days, the head of the Palestinian security services in the West Bank, Jibril Rajoub, announced on April 7, that the Shin Bet was not involved after all. Instead, he said a Palestinian student called Ghassan Adassi, aged 19, had confessed to involvement in the killing.

According to Rajoub's account, Sharif was shot dead by Adel Awadallah, another leader of Hamas's armed wing, in the culmination of a power struggle. Awadallah, with the help of the student Adassi, then planted a time-bomb under Sharif's body in the hope of obliterating evidence of the struggle and three gunshot wounds.

Rajoub said the PA's inquiries would continue, but since then there has been silence. The Palestinian press stopped reporting on the issue after several reporters were detained for calling the official account into question. Abbas Mumani, a Reuters journalist, was detained on May 5 and beaten for five days because he had passed on a videotape sent to him by Hamas, in which a masked man claiming to be Awadallah denied any part in the killing.

After the video was publicised, the PA changed its story yet again. Rajoub's police arrested one of Adel's brothers, Imad, and charged him with the killing. Despite prolonged interrogation, Imad Awadallah is reported to have denied having anything to do with it.

Adassi and Awadallah are in solitary confinement in Jericho, Rajoub's headquarters as Palestinian security chief. Neither has been allowed to see a lawyer or relatives. A Palestinian court order demanding they be released or tried has been ignored. When Adassi's brothers alleged he had been tortured into signing a confession, they were arrested themselves, and one of them, Sufiyan, was beaten severely around his ankles and shins.

Like many young Palestinians, Adassi is a Hamas member; but his fellow students at Bir Zeit University insist he had no role in the killing.

"We were making posters for the student elections together until about six that evening and then we drove back to Ramallah together," one of Adassi's friends told the Guardian. He did not want his name used, having already spent five days in detention for having given the local press his account, undermining the official PA version placing Adassi in the Ramallah workshop, eight miles away, at 6pm.

Ghassan Adassi's brother, Issam, said Ghassan came home soon after 6pm and went to evening prayers at a nearby mosque at 6.30.

"He was at home for the rest of the evening until the police came," Issam said. Another brother, Sufiyan Adassi, rented a carpentry shop next to the workshop where Sharif's body was found. When the family heard news of a fire, Issam and his father went to investigate and were arrested on the spot. The police then went to their house on the other side of Ramallah and detained the rest of the family, including Ghassan. Once in prison, he found his student activism counted against him.

The contradictions over Adassi's whereabouts are not the only unanswered questions surrounding the Second Engineer's death. There is strong evidence that an unidentified second corpse was found in the rubble.

The owner of a neighbouring workshop, who got to the scene in minutes, told the Guardian: "Everyone there was talking about two bodies."

For the first 24 hours after the blast, both Israeli and Palestinian reports quoted police sources as saying there had been a second victim. The PA first explained this extra body as the victim of an unrelated incident nearby, without giving further details. Later, Rajoub denied there had ever been a second body.

The autopsy report on Sharif has never been released, despite repeated demands by his family. In an as-yet unpublished report, the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group claims that the forensic physician who first examined the body concluded that "one of al-Sharif's legs had been amputated prior to the explosion".

The dead man's relatives who were called to identify the corpse also claim a leg had been neatly cut off. Hamas has claimed the amputation was carried out to eliminate signs of torture by the Palestinian authorities, the Israelis, or both.

THE Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) is so concerned about the PA investigation that it has set up its own committee to monitor the inquiry.

Ziad Abu Amr, a committee member and an expert on Hamas, said: "There are so many unresolved questions. Prior to this Hamas has never resorted to internal liquidation. The party with the most vested interest in killing this man is Israel. He was top of their hit-list." In the months before the assassination, the Shin Bet had been telling Israeli journalists it was closing in on the Second Engineer. His right-hand man, Abdullah al-Bakri, had been arrested in December and after weeks of interrogation had given crucial details of Sharif's habits and hideouts.

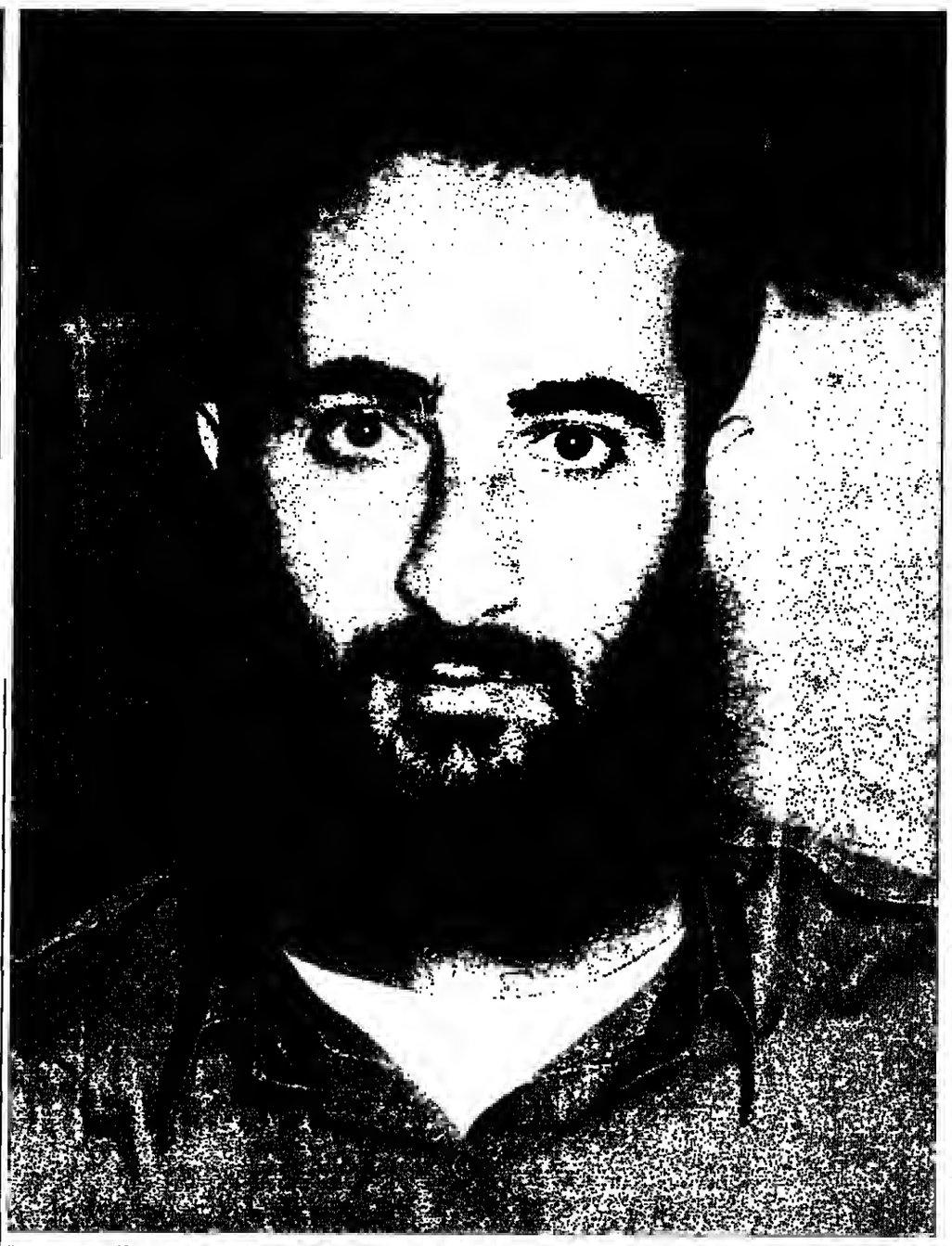
Hamas claims that Bakri was tortured into leading the Shin Bet to Sharif. Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas leader in Gaza, said: "There is no internal feud in Hamas. We are not angels but we are not collaborators and we are not spies" — a pointed dig at the PA, which Hamas accuses of colluding with Israel in Sharif's assassination.

Dr Zahar accuses the PA of using the incident to try to crush Hamas. Over 30 of its Gaza members, including its local leader, Abdel-Aziz Rantissi, are now in jail. The Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group says another hundred pro-Hamas students and clerics have also been rounded up.

The crackdown is almost certainly aimed at pleasing the US at a time when the state department has taken the PA's side in negotiations with the Israelis.

In Sharif's family house on the outskirts of Jerusalem, the newest Sharif is only a few weeks old. He has been named Muhiyideen after his late uncle.

Above his cot is a string of posters with an idealised portrait of the Second Engineer and the slogan: "He died for the Engineer, Yihye Ayash. Who will die for him?"



'There are so many unresolved questions. Hamas has never resorted to internal liquidation. The party with the most vested interest in killing this man is Israel. He was top of their hit-list'

Israel feared it would suffer reprisals over suspicions that it was responsible for the death of Muhiyideen Sharif — the chief Hamas bomb-maker (left). Sharif's body was found near the mangled remains of a Fiat Uno car (far left) after an explosion on March 29 in Ramallah. But a second corpse has disappeared

Strikes put Greece on brink of economic crisis

Helena Smith in Athens on the painful privatisation drive that is infuriating workers

GREECE came close last night to an economic crisis that could scupper its hopes of joining Europe's single currency, as workers vowed to step up protests against the government's privatisation programme.

State bank employees yesterday said they would wreak havoc on the financial sector by intensifying strikes nationwide. They oppose the ruling Socialists' plans to sell off the country's fourth-largest state-owned bank. Trade unions are also furious at moves to restructure Olympic Airways, the national carrier.

The industrial action, after a week marred by violent clashes with strikers, pits the Socialists against their two main pillars of support: the public sector and the powerful unions.

Growing opposition to painful economic reforms among Socialist dissenters has not helped, putting Greece's pro-European prime minister, Costas Simitis, increasingly on the defensive.

In a cabinet meeting today, Mr Simitis will urge his ministers to press ahead with the policies if Athens is to join Europe's economic and monetary union by its target date of 2001.

Greece, the European Union's poorest partner, has yet to meet any of the Maastricht treaty's economic convergence criteria. Last week, Mr Simitis, who sees the sale of loss-making state banks as a test case of the privatisation drive, said the country would be condemned to live alone "in a corner of the Balkans" if it failed keep abreast with other EU members.

His task will not be easy. Although he has assembled a task force of modernisers and European pragmatists around him, his popularity has plummeted.

Fury over cuts and privatisations that would have been anathema to the late prime minister, Andreas Papandreou, the founder of the governing party, has seen support for the Socialists nosedive.

In a sign of the hostility towards Mr Simitis, posters of Mr Papandreou have appeared on public buildings throughout the country.

The government's decision to start its privatisation programme with the bank sale has not only been met by protests from the bank's employees; solidarity strikes by employees at other banks are under way as fears of mass lay-offs mount. A spokesman for the Greek Federation of Bank Employees said he expected the entire public banking sector to be closed by this week's protests.

The chaos in Greece has deepened as its two biggest unions have weighed in, crippling the country with a series of general strikes. After staging their fourth mass walkout in as many months last week, the unions yesterday forecast a summer of intense industrial action.

"Greeks have been at the receiving end of economic austerity measures since 1986," Christos Polyzogopoulos, who heads the General Confederation of Workers, said. "We can't keep up with the break-neck speed of these reforms. They are inhumane. Brussels will have to wait."

But Loukas Papademos, the governor of the Bank of Greece, yesterday urged the government to forge ahead with the reforms, saying the success of its economic policies hinged on the privatisation programme. He said the Socialists also had to speed up the restructuring of Olympic Airways, Greece's biggest loss-making company, if the airline was to survive.

Officials said yesterday that protests by Olympic's staff had brought the airline to the point of bankruptcy. Noting the daily cancellations of flights on both domestic and international routes, few believe the company will be able to stay in the skies beyond this month.

Former president in sodomy trial

Alex Duval Smith in Harare

THE former Zimbabwe president, Canaan Banana, Methodist minister and father of four, is the country's best-known football fan. But his alleged passion for the players' bodies will land him in the high court today charged with sodomy and indecent assault.

In the most sensational trial ever staged in Africa's most overtly homophobic society, Mr Banana, who ran the country from 1980 to 1987, faces at least 10 years' jail on charges of gay assault against a bodyguard, a cook, a gardener, several students and footballers.

His wife Janet yesterday pledged to stand by her husband. "Why should I be afraid? We rely on God for everything," she told the Standard newspaper.

The professor of theology, aged 63, is charged with 11 counts of sodomy, attempted sodomy and indecent assault. The charges arose out of the murder trial last February of Jefta Dube, a former presidential bodyguard who was given 10 years for the 1995 murder of a fellow policeman who had called him "Banana's wife".

Homosexual acts are illegal in Zimbabwe. President Robert Mugabe has mounted a personal campaign against gays and lesbians, describing them as "lower than dogs and pigs".

The Gay and Lesbian Association of Zimbabwe claims it has suffered a smear campaign by pro-government newspapers which allege that it acts as a rent-boy agency for foreign tourists.

Dube claimed that he was forced for three years by Mr Banana to have anal and oral sex, under threats and blackmail. He said he awoke at State House one morning, after apparently being drugged, to find his trousers removed and a smiling president telling him: "We helped ourselves."

After police drew up charges against Mr Banana and a judge reduced Dube's sentence to seven years, the former president denied he was homosexual.

Mr Banana — who since his time as Zimbabwe's first black leader has been a mediator for the Commonwealth and the Organisation of African Unity — said the allegations were "character assassination" aimed at discrediting him.

Mr Mugabe, who is facing pressure to resign due to mismanagement and increasing poverty in Zimbabwe, has not commented on the case. He launched his anti-gay campaign before the charges were made.

The trial will last at least a month. More than 30 witnesses are expected to testify, including one vice-president, several cabinet ministers and serving and retired military officers.

Several members of the State House Tornadoes — a football team Mr Banana set up and used to play with — are also due to appear, as well as former students at the University of Zimbabwe where Mr Banana taught.

● Harare students who clashed with riot police on Friday will continue their protest today. They are demanding higher grants and an end to political favouritism in the selection of candidates for study abroad.

Robert Mugabe has mounted a personal campaign against gays and lesbians, describing them as 'lower than pigs'

Saddam stakes claim to bank funds secreted by executed son-in-law

Reuters in Amman

ONE of President Saddam Hussein's daughters is fighting for control of money which belonged to her former husband, the head of Iraq's special guards, who was shot dead in 1996 after briefly defecting to Jordan.

Jordanian newspapers said yesterday that a bank in Amman had promised Rana it would honour interest worth £18,700 on an account opened by her former husband, Saddam Kamel Hassan.

Diplomats said it was the first clear evidence that Iraq was trying to recover money, possibly tens of millions of pounds, taken out of Baghdad by Saddam Kamel and his brother, Hussein Kamel Hassan, married to Rana's elder sister, Raghad.

The two men defected to Jordan in August 1995, denouncing their father-in-law and declaring that they would overthrow him, but returned six months later. Their divorce from President Saddam's daughters was announced as they crossed into Iraq and shortly afterwards they were shot dead.

Iraq said the brothers were killed by angry members of their family.

Jordan's al-Rai newspaper quoted Rafiq Hariri, the vice-president of ANZ Grindlays in Jordan, as saying his bank would meet Rana's demand for the interest on the account.

He would not say how large the original deposit was, the newspaper said, although it appears from the interest payment that it was much less than £300,000.

But the total sums the two brothers spirited out of Iraq in August 1995 — or before their defections — were almost certainly much higher.

Hussein Kamel, as head of Iraq's military industrialisation commission, controlled a budget of billions of pounds.

"How much he stashed away when he was in charge, nobody knows," one diplomat in Jordan said.

Al-Urdun, the political weekly newspaper which first revealed that Rana was seeking to win back the money, said Hussein Kamel was known to have invested £625 million in banks around the world.

Without naming sources, it said at the weekend that Baghdad was in contact with international banks in Switzerland to track down Hussein Kamel's accounts.

Comment

e-mail

Duncan Campbell @ La Paz

THE British ambassador to Bolivia thought that *chicha*, the local brew, was disgusting and made no secret of the fact. The Bolivian dictator, Mariano Melgarejo, was insulted. As a punishment, the ambassador was forced to drink a barrelfull of chocolate and then paraded down the main street of La Paz sitting backwards on a donkey before being despatched back to London.

That was more than a century ago and Queen Victoria was so unamused that she called for a map of Latin America, drew a cross over Bolivia and said: "Bolivia does not exist." Times change and so do diplomatic manners, but dietary habits apparently do not and a search is currently on in La Paz for someone who can cook "British cuisine".

The reason is that the British Council have just opened their doors in the Bolivian capital and are fast recruiting students to learn English there. They would like them to have the full British experience and thus want to serve the full English breakfast in the morning and the full English tea with scones in the afternoon. All of which *may help to give the Brits a* slightly higher profile in Bolivia than they have at present. This may be just in time as the United Kingdom is clearly misunderstood there.

"The great thing about watching British films (like the Full Monty or Trainspotting) in La Paz is that they are all sub-titled in Spanish so you can finally understand what the people are really saying," said one American aid worker last week. So with only around 350 British citizens — three of them in jail — resident in a country twice the size of France, it's clear that the profile needs raising.

THERE are, to be fair, two English pubs now doing their best. The Pig and Whistle in the centre of La Paz offers many of the features one would expect from an English pub (cricketing prints, bottles of Glenlivet behind the bar, Rod Stewart playing too loud on the sound system) but has the added attraction of *el sandwich ingles* which turns out to consist of "corned beef, cheese and choucrout". Drinks are served with bowls of popcorn mixed with crisps.

The Britannia, out in the Calacoto suburbs of La Paz, does even better with pints of Tetley's, club ties behind the bar, prints of Shakespearean and Dickensian scenes, a darts board and a police helmet.

Since Bolivian football teams carry such anglicised names as The Strongest, Blooming, Destroyers and Always Ready, there are already other strong links. But if a decent British chef emerges from the current hunt and can provide English cuisine that does not rely too heavily on choucrout and popcorn, reparation for that dreadful 19th-century insult may finally be complete.

Never forget the 18 years of Tory stranglehold. Fight for real democracy

Polly Toynbee

TOMORROW the all-party campaign for electoral reform is launched, preparing for the promised referendum next year. All-party may be stretching it a bit — there are only a couple of maverick Conservatives, no MPs. But there are over 100 Labour MPs, the Lib Dems, SNP, Plaid Cymru, Greens, Charter 88, etc. The campaign will promote *whatever voting* system Roy Jenkins and his Commission on Electoral Reform proposes when it reports in October. The Prime Minister says he remains to be persuaded — so the campaign is still to be fought and won.

But in truth, some of the passion has gone out of PR. Old campaigners who made fiery speeches on PR back in the dark Thatcher night now seem a trifle bored with it. What the hell, didn't the good guys win? To be sure the little parties want to increase their power, but otherwise some of the old fire is missing. Back when a ferociously ideological party had seized power unfairly for 18 years, strong government was exactly the stranglehold we wanted to escape. How times have changed.

Now we have strong government, but of a very different hue. Our non-ideological Government is already offering benefits we used to promise PR would bring: governing with the consent of the majority, non-confrontational, inclusive, proceeding by negotiation. Tony Blair's Third Way is a coalition of interests so fluid and all-embracing that it confounds all attempts at serious opposition. Perversely, we should now embrace PR for exactly the opposite reasons we used to want it — in order to add grit and *irritants to* a one-party mooolith.

How we elect MPs to Westminster seems a little less vital, as power shifts away to new national and maybe regional assemblies, to elected city mayors and to Europe. Other cancers in our democracy threaten more obviously — especially the state of the press, utterly disproportionate to the votes cast in the last election. Can we have a civilised debate on joining the euro with such unrepresentative europhobia in most of the newspapers? How the rightwing press taints the air with bigotry, bile and contemptuous mockery of "do-gooders" and "social workers", rubbishing public service, abusing and ridiculing teachers, civil servants, town hall officials, filled with ideological hatred of the public sector. How they warp the national debate. But there is no sign of a campaign for a freer press, nor to restrict the pernicious dominance of Murdoch.

Other democratic deficits also clamour for attention. Local democracy is dying on its feet for lack of recognisable communities people will bother to vote for. Abolishing the monarchy would force light and air into so many archaic and moribund institutions — and so on. But proportional representation remains an essential *sine qua non* in the reforming and modernising of Britain.

Disillusion with the process of politics is growing, despite this Government's popularity. At tomorrow's "Make Votes Count" launch, an NOP poll will show Labour at 51 per cent. Yet over 70 per cent of the same respoodents say politicians aren't to be trusted, and are out of touch with ordinary people.

The same NOP poll finds an astonishingly high level of support for PR. 72 per cent said they'd vote Yes for a fair share of seats on a proportional basis. However, as with most polls, it all depends how you ask the question. To the proposition "Our political system has worked effectively for many generations," 61 per cent said yes. Well, which do they really mean? Those of us who once went door-to-door collecting signatures for a "Fair Votes" petition for PR know just how ignorant people are about voting systems. Confused by swing-o-meters, a great many thought that all votes were already centrally counted to produce a winning party. It usually took a half-hour doorstep conversation to explain — but once they realised how unfair our elections are, virtually everyone signed the petition.

FOR example, fewer people voted Labour in 1997 than voted for Major in 1992. The 1947 landslide Labour victory was won on just 47 per cent of the vote. Then at the next election in 1951, Labour increased its popular vote but the Tories won more seats. In 1974 Ted Heath was ejected although he got more votes than Labour. In 1997 Labour targeted just 70,000 swing voters in key marginals who would win them the entire election — but PR makes every vote count.

The Jenkins Commission has been told to produce a "broadly proportional system". Those in the cabinet opposed to PR have been briefing that the Alternative Vote (AV) system would do. Under AV constituencies remain the same, but voters list the candidates in order of preference. If no candidate gets 50 per cent, second preferences are counted. It would demolish the Tories now because Labour and Lib Dems are so close ideologically that Tories would get few second preferences. At the last election AV would have given fewer than 100 Tory seats — a wildly disproportionate result. Jenkins will not tolerate that, even as a stop-gap.

Jenkins has to find a system with MPs still elected for each seat. So the commission will probably go for some form of AV-Plus. That means that, say, half the MPs would be elected by double-sized constituencies, and the other half would be elected from a party list, in serried ranks of head office party favourites, proportionate to their total votes. (This could be just a quarter top-up MPs — and it needn't have a central party-selected list.)

But none of this can now happen in time for the next election, for AV Plus will take time and furious local rows to put in place with existing constituency boundaries redrawn.

Although it may be hard for Blair to wriggle out of it, the battle for PR is not yet won: the Make Votes Count campaign will need energetic support. Complacency, ignorance and indifference are the enemy. So is Labour hubris. They should never forget those 18 years, and ensure that nothing of the kind ever happens again.

Waiting for Russia

Peter Preston

IN A curious way, Russia has ceased to exist. We see Boris Yeltsin beaming stiffly on the periphery of the Birmingham Summit. We watch Yevgeny Primakov trundled forth to lecture Baghdad or Belgrade. Moscow mafia hoods supplant the KGB in Hollywood's stock cast of villainy. The rest is mostly silent — punctuated occasionally by the dramatics of cabinet sackings or the storm signals of financial crisis.

Who cares about the rouble when India and Pakistan are testing their nukes tit for tat? Who worries about Russian interest rates when Suharto has reeled towards his last exit? But everything connects.

Inside Russia, these past few days, the connections have come with stark clarity. The rouble remains under devastating pressure, hanging day by day on the brink of a devaluation Norman Lamontski would know and fear. Interest rates perch at 150 per cent. Unpaid miners can cut the country's railway network in half. Tax receipts dip down below 20 per cent of GDP. And the men from the IMF are dragged, yet again, from their pedestal of studied indifference.

Grigory Yablinsky, the Russian politician the West loves most, pulls the problems chillingly together in the latest issue of the American journal, Foreign Relations. You want clear (and related) nightmares? "The increasing risks of chaos are evident in the rumours of nuclear smuggling. Russia has thousands of tonnes of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Under the rule of a corrupt oligarchy, uranium and anthrax could become black market commodities available to the highest bidder."

You want Indonesian parallels? Yablinsky fears Russia is turning into a corporist state — where "freedom of the press and other civil liberties are suppressed; laws are frequently ignored or suspended and constitutions are obeyed only when convenient. Here corruption is rife from the streets to the halls of power, and personalities, contacts and clans count for more than institutions and laws".

These are real fears: and the diagnosis is widely shared. Indeed, it has become almost the common wisdom in Moscow in the six days of the latest débâcle. And the defences of stability, at first sight, appeared pitifully frail.

I've had a seat in a conference stall there, watching the champions come and go. Yeltsin isn't finished. He bounces down the steps like a boxer in training, smiling at his own agility. Look, I can do it. There is a rippling assumption that he will run again in 2000. Unconstitutional? The smile broadens and the thick body heaves with laughter. When he speaks he uses the same word as Yablinksy for the true enemy. Oligarchs.

WHO are they? They are earnest young men in black blazers: new millionaires, maybe billionaires, like Boris Berezovsky, who've bought car plants or oil wells at knock-down prices and piled banks and newspapers and television studios on top of them.

They say they pay their taxes. They deny funnelling the cash abroad into familiar bolt holes. One of them, asked the question in open session, says that he gives himself only one fortnight's holiday a year. "Otherwise I am in my office, all day every day, working." Of course he puts something back into Russia. His oil company has just franchised thousands of petrol stations for one-man businesses to put down roots. He seems vehemently sincere. he began building a career — in a bank — when he was 23. Now he is 34 and still rising. Are these — the oligarchs — the heart of the problem?

Yeltsin seems to think so. He attacks them and their newspapers directly. He's all for e free press. Its just the owners of it and the people who work for it he can't stand. There's no doubt who the men who have the political power say they're fighting: the men with the financial power, the men who they have perversely enriched in the first wave of privatisations. The parcel of blame passes angrily around a tight circle.

On first inspection, then, the key to the problem is lost in deep thickets of recrimination. No one — not the masters in the Kremlin, not the blazers in the boardroom — is responsible. The convenient whipping boys of Russian existence down the ages — the bureaucrats, the government inspectors — can always, in extremis, be summoned for a good kicking.

IS THERE an answer to the Russian conundrum? No more than there is a definition of where the two-headed eagle for Europe and Asia looks first in search of inspiration. Nato draws a line at the border and sits there pensively. A country without a camp is a country without easy identity.

But this is where the gloom begins to turn into something rather different. We assume that democracy, like the market economy, can be learned in a crash course of hardship. We believe the tranformations can be instant. We kid ouselves.

Because I was there for a press congress, I talked newspapers and the 10,000 or more magazines that publish across the breadth of Russia, a mêlée of voices.

What do they remind you of most? Nothing, in their ownership, so much as the British newspapers of the late 18th century, proliferation of tame organs in thrall to parties or aristocrats or businessmen. They were the halting

Uranium and anthrax could become black market commodities

beginning, not the end, of freedom.

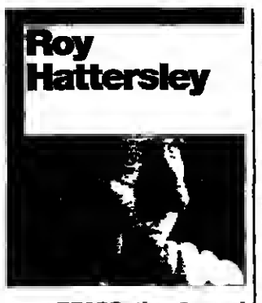
One day — much later — the grinder of market forces will probably erase the memory of most of these Russian counterparts too. Moscow and the other big cities will have one or two large, fat journals writing bland, cautious things. What's left will be what America has left.

It's this sense of rhythm of due process which escapes so many Western observers and so many Russians themselves. Instant communication means instant actions — and, when that fails, instant disillusion. Too damned quick. The arch reformers, like Yablinsky, want a mould which can be formed in a trice. You're either America now, or you're a nuclear Indonesia. But what I think I glimpsed was something rather more interesting — a pattern of evocations across decades, even centuries. Compare the oligarchs with the crude tycoons who built the US. Compare Yeltsin with Teddy Roosevelt. Compare Moscow's mayor with Fiorello La Guardia. The time scales dance back and forth — and only those who are blind to them fail to see.

Russia hasn't ceased to exist. Russia is one version of our own past and of our future unrolling day by absorbing day in a world which has forgotten to remember how to pause and wait.

Endpiece: Kashmiri Cookery

Roy Hattersley



BEFORE the General Election, I shared the almost universal view that Robin Cook would be one of the new government's most successful ministers. That remains my opinion even though Mr Cook, whose character encourages *schadenfreude*, has become a victim of the snowball syndrome — a debilitating and virulent disease which infects political journalists from time to time. Thanks to a couple of perceived mistakes — made at the start of Mr Cook's Foreign Office career — commentators are determined to roll his reputation downhill. So almost everything he does increases the volume of criticism and accelerates the speed with which minor errors are exposed.

Parliamentary correspondents hunt in a pack. And I have no doubt that they will soon change their collective mind. Mr Cook is certainly clever enough — and I hope sufficiently tough — to soldier on until one commentator canonises him and the rest follow suit. Their change of heart and mind will have no rational basis. So future biographers will find it hard to decide when and why the newspapers gave up inventing imaginary mistakes and started to ignore real ones. If there were any justice in politics, the process would have begun some time between the testing of India's nuclear device and Pakistan's decision to retaliate with tests of its own. The change would be marked by a single word — Kashmir.

During the Queen's state visit to India — with the Foreign Secretary as minister in attendance — Mr Cook made a private offer of help to resolve the Kashmir dispute. The Indians, whose only objection to the status quo is the Kashmiris' tedious habit of demanding self-determination, told him to mind his own business. Naturally, British newspapers echoed their suggestion.

The big bangs which have recently reverberated round the sub-continent have put the Cook initiative into proper international perspective. The Kashmir dispute is the business of everybody who wants to reduce tension between India and Pakistan and halt the nuclear arms race in Asia.

THE Foreign Secretary would be entitled to argue that the future of Kashmir has been our proper concern ever since India and Pakistan gained their independence more than 50 years ago. It is, in a very real sense, the unfinished business of empire — the one state in the old Raj which was left, after partition, in constitutional limbo. The United Nations said that its future should be determined by referendum — a proposal which a Government that has polled the Northern Irish people so successfully must find hard to ignore. And the Kashmiris (at least those in the west of the state who are allowed to discuss such matters) ask why a UN resolution justifying war against Iraq is peremptory and absolute while a UN resolution calling for a Kashmir plebiscite is negotiable and therefore ignored. Nobody doubts that, given the chance, citizens of what Pakistan calls "occupied Kashmir" would leave the Indian secular state and either join their co-religionists in the Islamic republic of Pakistan or, much less likely, set up an independent Muslim nation.

Inevitably, India is accused of hanging on to its reluctant Kashmiris because it fears losing face or strategic advantage. But what is left of the Congress Party advances far better reasons for maintaining resistance to a change of allegiance.

India, they say, must not become a Hindu country. And its secular status would be prejudiced — and its Buddhist, Sikh, and Christian minorities devalued before the law — if there was ever international agreement that Muslims cannot call it home. Add to that the conviction — held with various degrees of sincerity in New Delhi — that something called the Simla Agreement supersedes the United Nations resolution and only one conclusion is possible. The Kashmir situation is a mess.

It is a dangerous mess which immensely complicates the relationship between the almost democratic republic of Pakistan and the armed forces on which the politicians depend. Some Islamabad prime ministers have tried to keep the generals happy with talk of reclaiming land which is rightly part of the Islamic republic. Others have confirmed the military's importance by promising to continue and extend the nuclear programme.

NO ONE who has seen recent television reports of Pakistan's reaction to last week's tests can doubt the volatility of the region — or imagine for a moment that economic sanctions are going to muffle the explosion of Islamic nationalism. Nor is India's offer of no first strike likely to calm fears or reduce nerves.

Mighty India could overrun tiny Pakistan, using only conventional weapons. Pakistan will continue to believe that is a real threat for as long as Indian soldiers continue to kill "freedom fighters" (or, as they are alternatively known, "terrorists") in the Vale of Kashmir.

Anybody who has thought about it — a category which certainly excludes most political journalists — realises that no conscientious British foreign secretary could go to the area without raising the subject of Kashmir. No doubt it caused an awkward moment in the conversation. But talking in Beijing about civil rights or discussing in Rio the destruction of the rain forests has exactly the same effect. From Castlereagh to Curzon, British foreign secretaries were inclined to lay down the international law. Recently, they have struggled not to offend. Cook of Kashmir strikes the right balance. May the sun never set upon his empire.

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Bank's new currency

But at cost of democracy

MEET THE New Lady of Threadneedle Street. Today the Bank of England steps out in her new clothes, stripped of the power to act as the City's policeman, but with the right to set the nation's interest rates laid down in law. In effect, the passing of the Bank of England Act merely formalises what has been happening since the moment, five days after last May's election, when Gordon Brown announced he was giving up day-to-day control of monetary policy. From that point on, the Chancellor decided what the goal of policy should be — keeping inflation at 2.5 per cent — and left the Bank to decide the level of rates necessary to achieve it.

A year on from that historic decision seems a good time to assess how things are going so far. The new system for setting rates is certainly open and transparent, and those who say the splits in the Monetary Policy Committee reflect a structural weakness are quite wrong. The Soviet Union's politburo was strong on unanimity and secrecy; unfortunately it was not strong on very much else. More contentious is whether the Bank's overall policy stance is right. All nine members of the MPC are committed to the inflation target, but the activists, led by the deputy governor, Mervyn King, favour higher interest rates now to damp down strong domestic demand, while the pragmatists, headed by the Governor, Eddie George, think the evidence already points to the economy slowing. For the time being Mr George is having the better of the argument, which is probably just as well given the storm clouds gathering over the international economy.

But there are two wider points. The first is whether independent central banks actually deliver. Mr Brown believes that a Labour government, particularly given its less-than-glowing record, needs more credibility with the capricious markets than the Conservatives, and that this is best delivered by a Bank free from political control. The counter-argument is that while central banks can squeeze inflation more successfully, the price paid in jobs lost is higher. In New Zealand, which has almost identical arrangements, deeper recessions were required to get inflation under control after the Bank was given its freedom in 1989.

Second, there is the question of whether it is right that a democratically elected government should hand over one of the main levers of economic decision-making to an unelected body of nine central bankers and academics. The economic rationale is that like Odysseus, who strapped himself to the mast so he would not be tempted by the sirens' song, politicians have to restrain themselves from mismanaging the economy for electoral gain. But this doesn't really get around the question of democracy. It suggests that either the electorate is so stupid that it cannot recognise a government offering jam today but pain tomorrow or that it can recognise short-termism when it sees it, but is prepared to vote for it anyway. If democracy means anything, it is that people have the right to decide — even if that means being short-termist, or stupid.

All work, no play

We've got the balance wrong

IT began life inside the American expression "getalife." Since then the word has developed a life of its own — as used by the stressed workaholic who sighs, "I have no life". In this new context the word refers to those rare moments of genuine living, to those fleeting seconds of "quality time". It can be spent anywhere — just so long as it's away from the office or the factory.

The conflict between life and work is laid bare in a survey published this morning by Management Today magazine. It makes for compelling and timely reading. Just a few days after a cluster of high-profile, high-achieving women — from Angela Browning MP to magazine editor Tina Gaudoin — announced they were quitting their jobs in order to have a life, the new study reveals that employees across Britain, male and female, are cracking under the stress of work overload.

More than half of respondents report spending between 41 and 50 hours a week at work, with a further 25 per cent staying in the office for more than 51 hours. Close to half say they find it increasingly hard to reconcile their work with their personal commitments. Fascinatingly, a quarter say they would accept less money in return for more time. There is a time famine out there, and British workers are among the hungriest. Management Today has called its report The Great Work/Life Debate, acknowledging the two are now in permanent conflict. It's a useful contribution, for that's exactly what's needed: a great debate about the way changes in technology and the labour market have transformed the way we all work — and try to live.

5 becomes 4

Do they really wannabe alone?

STOP right now, thank you very much. So says the hook line of the Spice Girls' latest hit, and many of the group's erstwhile fans will now hope they follow their own advice. How can girl power live on without its loudest advocate? Geri Halliwell was the widely acknowledged driving force of the band, leading the plot to sack the Spice Girls' male manager last year. Surely, without Ginger Spice the all-girl group are destined to share the fate of Take That without Robbie — with more rows, slumping sales and eventual break-up.

And yet the Guardian treads humbly in Spiceworld territory. Following last year's management coup we rashly predicted the beginning of the end of the Spice Girls. The band promptly rebuked us with a Christmas number one. Will our initial instinct be proved right this time? That depends on us, the record-buying public. The Spice Girls will live on, but only if that's what we want — what we really, really want.

Letters to the Editor

Epidemic of amanuenses

IT'S all very well for Michael J Parker to shoo off the local youths by piping the deeply unappealing music of "Freddo" Delius into our Metro stations (Letters, May 30). But what does he propose to do about the consequent and alarming increase in the numbers of elderly gentlemen beginning to congregate there? They lounge about to their pale suits and wide-brimmed hats. They smoke pipes and smile beatifically at anyone just trying to get on a tram. It's most unnerving. The place is now even beginning to attract amanuenses for God's sake.
Paul Sampson.
Newcastle upon Tyne.

RE Chris Woodhead's use of "refute" instead of "deny" (Letters, May 30): in the New Shorter Oxford, the definition of refute given first is "refuse or reject (a thing or person)". A symbol does indicate, however, that this usage (dating from the 16th century) is obsolete. So it could be that Mr Woodhead was not incorrect but, as befits an enemy of trendiness, merely old-fashioned.
David Montrose.
Blythe Bridge, Staffs.

TONY Blair will sit down for 22 minutes with Des O'Connor (Leader, May 29) but won't sit down with Jeremy Paxman for even 30 seconds.
Stuart Leach.
Banbury, Oxon.

I WONDER how much the Blairs pay their nanny (Premier admits holding talks on child benefit tax, May 28)?
Jack Critchlow.
Torquay.

WALTER Benjamin wrote that he came into the world "under the sign of Saturn — star of the slowest revolution, planet of detours and delays" (Panties on the brain, Saturday, May 30). Perhaps Jay Parini could explain how this squares with his "biographical" description of Benjamin's speedy and detour-less removal of Julie's panties?
I Morgan.
Lincoln.

SO "Viagra gets the thumbs up" (May 30). So much for freedom from side effects.
Nigel Draper.
Birkenhead.

Risk of doctors in denial

I AM a Bristol GP and have followed the paediatric cardiac surgery case with special interest because of my contact with parents whose children have died (Doctors ignored baby death toll, May 30). I share their concern that there should be a full inquiry and that changes should be made to prevent it happening again.

But there seems to be an unrealistic reliance on structure, audit and external regulation to prevent doctors working beyond their competence. It is also essential that the emotional needs of doctors who carry responsibility for life and death are also addressed.

This case has caused me to think about how hard I find it to face up to my fallibility and take responsibility for my mistakes. My capacity to harm, as a GP, is much less than that of a cardiac surgeon. How do such surgeons learn to live with the responsibility? They need emotional distance to carry out technically highly complex surgery, but without an awareness of their own response to the emotional burden that they carry, will be incapable of making a realistic evaluation of their work.

Medical training provided no answers as to how this balancing act could be achieved. The culture within the profession was, and largely remains, one of emotional invincibility, with those who admit to pressure being seen as weak and unprofessional. This is slowly changing, especially within general practice, but we have a long way to go before it is accepted as essential that doctors find a way to deal with the feelings aroused in them by their work. Supervision, in the sense of a place to reflect on one's work with a qualified colleague, has always been the norm in social work, counselling and psychotherapy; it is essential for doctors too.

If we are serious in our desire to prevent such a situation as at the Children's Hospital ever arising again, we must ensure that doctors have the emotional skills to cope with the tasks they carry out.
Dr M E Wright.
Bristol.

THE inquiry highlights the problems faced by doctors who try to communicate their concerns to medical management. Unlike consultant appointments, which are subject to national criteria, medical managers frequently attain their positions through the "old boys club" without the need to demonstrate any managerial ability. As with Dr Bolsin, critics are nuisances to be disposed of.

The abolition of regional health authorities removed an invaluable source of impartial advice for concerned doctors. These problems will remain until trusts lose their unfettered autonomy and have to follow nationally agreed appointments procedures for medical managers, including open competition.
Alex R M Evans.
Birmingham.

Mutual aid

GARY Younge underestimates the degree of co-operation between aid agencies and misunderstands what they have been doing in Sudan (Market competition oils the aid machine, May 28). Most non-governmental organisations have, like Oxfam, been working in the crisis of south Sudan for years; they did not need to "get there first". In the current emergency they have been trying to scale up their operations to respond to human need.

Most agencies operate under the co-ordinating mechanism of Operation Lifeline Sudan, a mixture of UN agencies and NGOs. This has established ground rules to which all parties must adhere to preserve the integrity and impartiality of the relief programme. In Britain major NGOs launch joint appeals for funds under the co-ordinating mechanism of the Disasters Emergency Committee. This replaces competition with co-operation in fundraising.

Most agencies are also signatories to a code of conduct devised by the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement and by NGOs like Oxfam, which governs how they should behave in emergencies.
Nicholas Stockton.
Emergencies Director,
Oxfam, Oxford.

I HAVE just returned from a fact-finding mission to the Upper Nile and it was clear that humanitarian need is urgent. I saw that the agencies in Sudan are well co-ordinated by Operation Lifeline Sudan. But the political will of the warring parties to reach a real peace, and pressure from other countries, is the vital factor in helping save the lives of people in Sudan.
Oona King MP.
Bethnal Green & Bow.

COMPETITION between aid agencies was a cause for concern in the mid-70s when I was a minister at Overseas Development, though it seems to have intensified. It is time for a comprehensive independent investigation of the agencies to look at the inevitable wastage from their overlapping bureaucracies, uncoordinated appeals and conflicting central policy decisions which can confuse not just the message but programme implementation.
John Grant.
Deal, Kent.

Pay lecture

MAY I correct one or two points in Pauline Hunt's excellent article on the Cambridge "promotions battle" (Uneasy chairs, Higher Education, May 26)? I did not lose the sex discrimination case, though the university would like you to believe that I did. It has not been heard. There has merely been a preliminary hearing on whether it was brought out of time.

More importantly, what I am trying to achieve is not primarily for women, though we certainly get a raw deal in the university and I think Cambridge does not have much on which to congratulate itself at the forthcoming 50th anniversary celebration of the granting of degrees to women.

The main thrust of this four-year campaign has been to win fair procedures and a reasonable career expectation for all Cambridge's academic staff. Although our efforts enable Cambridge consistently to lead in the league tables, we are less well paid and have less hope of advancement than the academic staff of any other university.
G R Evans.
Cambridge.

What benefit from minimum wage?

YOUNG people will be appalled to hear that their efforts will count for so little to the new economy (Labour fights union fury over low pay, May 29). Young people already make up a large proportion of the lowest paid. The proposed rate of £3.20 per hour will yield an income of £5,824 per annum for a 35-hour week. Paying young people less will not boost youth employment. It will just make it easier for employers to exploit them.
Martin Wilson.
Chair, British Youth Council.
Bharti Patel.
Director, Low Pay Unit.

WHY is the Government falling into the trap of justifying low wages by topping them up with benefits? This hasn't worked since the Speenhamland formula 200 years ago allowed farmers to pay a pittance to their workers and blame the poor for being a drain on the community.

It robs workers of choices on how they might spend their earnings; because benefits mainly go to families with children, single workers or childless couples may work very hard yet never earn enough to afford a decent car or holiday. And low-paid workers can never escape the poverty trap or put aside money for illness or old age.
Jessica Skippon.
London.

IT WAS no surprise to find union bosses griping about the £3.60 an hour minimum wage. They just don't seem to grasp it, do they? Since the whole of civilisation, the integrity of the ozone layer and England's chances in the World Cup all depend on the rights of the shareholder coming first, there can never be much left for wages. My Pep earned me a 30 per cent increase last year; that increase will be endangered if poorer people get enough money to live on. I didn't vote Labour last May to see my unearned income put at risk.
Jim Johnson.
Nottingham.

'Islamic' bomb

PETER Stockill's comments (Letters, May 30) are typical of the Eurocentric attitude towards world affairs. His concern — "Just imagine Saddam or Gadafy with nuclear weapons. It would place Europe within range of an Islamic bomb" — is an example of Islamophobia of the worst kind. A bomb is a bomb, whether Hindu, Jewish, American (Christian) or Islamic. Was the atomic bomb used on Hiroshima any less lethal or destructive just because it was used by a "Christian" or "responsible" nation?

Stockill is worried about the safety of Europeans from a possible "Islamic" bomb, but has no concern for the millions of people in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and other neighbouring countries who are equally within range of a "Hindu" bomb.
(Dr) Ghayasuddin Siddiqui.
London.

We do not publish letters with only an e-mail address; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters. The Country Diary is on page 10

MPs wanted. Independent thinkers need not apply

DO you seriously believe Tony Blair would change Labour Party selection rules just to get Dennis Skinner (Leader, May 28)? Anyone who has seen Mr Skinner at Question Time will know that the Prime Minister is unlikely to change rules to ditch one of his strongest supporters on the floor of the Commons.

Nor is he likely to want to disrupt the work of a parliamentary party of 418 MPs just to target five or six MPs who have occasionally voted or spoken against particular aspects of government policy.

The party has long vetted its candidates for council elections on their ability to deal with constituents' problems and willingness to abide by the whip. Why should MPs be treated differently? The national executive has always had the power to refuse endorsement of any candidate. This power has been arbitrary and at the discretion of the NEC. A codification of the process makes more sense than letting this situation continue.
Lorraine Marshall.
London.

I HAVE worked hard for the Labour Party since the early 1980s and am sick and tired of seeing my energies wasted by self-indulgent posturing MPs, who undermine the party to further their own ideological agendas. The proposed changes will make some of these MPs think twice before they stab the party in the back and should be welcomed by all members who were actually pleased to win the election.
Cllr Richard Olszewski.
Camden, London.

WASN'T it the Guardian which recently published a table showing which MPs asked the most parliamentary questions? Why, then, is it so outrageous that Labour HQ proposes to inform constituencies of their MP's voting record and parliamentary conduct? After all, the final decision on reselecting a sitting MP will remain with the constituency parties.
Cllr Toby Flux.
Surbiton, Surrey.

HUGO Young says Labour's moves to strengthen discipline amongst MPs are evidence of "democratic sickness" (Comment, May 28). He couldn't be more wrong. Steps to make MPs stick to the script on which they were elected strengthen democracy by ensuring voters get what they voted for. People do not vote for individuals and all their eccentricities. They vote for the policies of the party which the candidate purports to represent. Only journalists bemoan the lack of "independent thinkers" in Parliament. It is an MP's job to honour pledges given to the electorate not entertain the lobby.
Andy Burnham.
London

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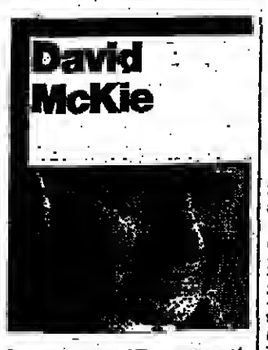
Pretty in pink



David McKie

WE ARE, are we not, the most knowing, the most sophisticated, the most questioning generation of consumers which ever existed. No one before was half so well equipped to challenge the claims of advertisers. The days when cynical manufacturers and their accessories could cheerfully target campaigns on Gilbert and Gertie Gullible have gone. I think it's agreed, for good. What pity we feel today for our forebears, so vulnerable to the incantations of quack doctors, so helpless to challenge them.

I have recently come across an advertising campaign which ran in the 1890s for a remedy so miraculous that five-year-old Florrie Hook, despaired of by doctors, prostrated by rickets, the remnant of her wretched life estimated in days, was restored to such blooming health that the News of the World came to see and marvel at what became known as "the Forest Hill miracle". "After the searching inquiry published by this great newspaper," the promoters exulted, "no doubt can remain as to the facts."

Nor was Florrie alone. A representative of the South London Press, interviewing "a rather well-known Dulwich resident who happens to be a gardener", found him leaping about, the rheumatic pains in the knee which had for so long prevented him walking to Brixton having been banished. In Scotland, Peter Ross, smitten by locomotor ataxy, went in vain to Strathpeffer to take the waters. But then he learned how all Scotland was talking of a miracle cure achieved by a small box of pills at Lochgilphead. A short course of the very same medicine, and he now stood once more as upright as he'd done when he served the Queen.

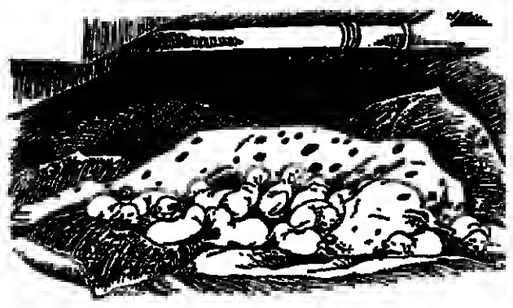
These and other heart-tugging human dramas, presented in news-story format, were designed to sell a product called Dr Williams's Pink Pills for Pale People. There were few ailments, it seemed, which the Doctor could not relieve. "An unfailing cure for rheumatism," the advertisements promised, "for neuralgia, locomotor ataxy, St Vitus' dance, nervous headache and prostration, diseases of the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas etc. They are a splendid tonic, and restore pale and sallow complexions to the flow of health; a specific for all the troubles peculiar to the female sex; and in men they effect a radical cure of all cases arising from worry, overwork and excesses of whatever nature."

Nor was Dr Williams the only such benefactor. As soon as his campaign ended, his slot to the London newspaper The Star was usurped by Mother Siegel's Curative Syrup. Elsewhere there was vivid testimony to the efficacy of Warner's Safe Cure — as again attested by neighbours and "sceptical" journalists — in saving a lad called Durrand stricken by Bright's Disease. How exactly Dr Williams and others achieved their miracles was never quite clear. It wasn't till 1909 that the BMA, in a publication called Secret Remedies, took them apart. The Pink Pills which had brought such a glow to the cheeks of pale people were simply a packaged version of iron tablets known as Blaud's pills, which in any case ought to be made up fresh and not packaged. The one miracle in the process was the price which the Doctor charged for them: at least 90 times what they cost him to manufacture. Even Beecham's Pills — still around today in a different formula — came badly out of this scrutiny, being found to contain nothing more than aloes, ginger and soap.

THANK goodness, I was going to say, our own more rational age would never fall for such tricks ... But then I remembered Nicole and Papa. On Friday the long-running saga of the pretty, wilful young thing and her worldly-wise father, engineered by Renault to sell the Clio, culminated in a scene where she left one young man at the altar and fled with another. Such excitement. The staid old Daily Telegraph even ran an editorial comment on Saturday morning. Yet these are ads which in terms of describing the product fall far short of Dr Williams.

They never talk about torque, overhead camshafts, compression ratios or idling speeds: indeed, apart from "Nicole!" and "Papa!" there are no words at all. Yet I see one expert assesses the Clio campaign as one of the most successful car campaigns ever, notching the highest prompted and unprompted recollection responses ever achieved for a car, or for virtually anything else. And all this by persuading the wistful that by buying the Clio you are somehow buying the glamorous hedonist lifestyles, set in Provence, of Nicole and her father. Dr Renault's transcendent trucks for pale people.

We may pity those who succumbed to the wiles of Dr Williams and company, but we shouldn't pretend that gullibility died with them. It merely evolved.



Anne Grahame Johnstone

Art of applying mutual talents

THE illustrative work of Anne Grahams Johnstone, who has died aged 69, and her twin sister Janet made an essential contribution to many a British childhood since the 1950s. Their brightly-coloured picture books always contained fascinating detail and sensuous atmosphere, with appealingly long-limbed characters injecting an element of energy into story time, for they crossed the page and circled the text in dynamic activity.

At the same time, expert images in black and white provided restrained but memorable accompaniments to classic children's fiction by such as Paul Gallico and Dodie Smith.

Anne wes born to the painter and stage designer, Doris Zinkeisen and her naval captain husband, a director of Johnnie Walker whisky. She and her sister were educated at Heathfield School, Ascot, during the second world war and then studied in London at St Martin's School of Art. In the early 1950s, they established themselves as illustrators by receiving regular commissions for picture books. Between them, they illustrated more than 100 books for children, including many volumes of fairy stories, myths and legends, nursery rhymes and prayers. They also reached an even wider audience by producing a large amount of artwork for television programmes such as *Andy Pandy* and *Bill and Ben*, during what may now be considered the golden age of children's television.

In 1956, Anne and Janet were invited by the writer Dodie Smith to illustrate her first children's book, *The Hundred and One Dalmatians*. The book was so well received that they worked on its sequels, *The Starlight Barking* (1967) and *The Midnight Kittens* (1978), and the relationship developed into a close friendship. They also illustrated three books by Paul Gallico, another children's author published by Heinemann; these were *The Man who was Magic* (1966), *Manxmouse* (1968) and *Miracle in the Wilderness* (1975).

With an uncanny mutual understanding, Anne and Janet executed their pictures together, each adding a touch in turn until they agreed that they had finished, a practice they applied even to the smallest monochrome vignette. However, each sister developed her own special talents to complement those of the other, so that Anne completed the historical costumes while Janet depicted the birds and animals. The love with which they accomplished these tasks shines through in the final illustrations which always appear as the creation of one, admittedly rich, imagination.

Sister act . . . Anne, seated, and Janet, with (top left) one of their Dalmatian drawings

They also proved that they could extend this singular achievement beyond illustration, producing a copy of e famous portrait of Emma Hamilton for HMS Victory in Portsmouth, and designing a projected theme park for Denmark based on the fairy tales of Hans Andersen.

FOLLOWING the death of Janet in 1979, as the result of an accident, Anne found herself suddenly responsible for the preservation of this shared enterprise. With an admirable determination, she fulfilled outstanding commissions and taught herself the skills once employed by her sister.

Her success at maintaining the particular look of the Grahame Johnstone picture book did not hamper her from being innovative. She wrote her own texts, such as that to *Santa's Toyshop* (1980), and produced a number of books in a pop-up format (1982-83). She also designed popular Christmas cards for Royles and fiendishly difficult jigsaw puzzles for Waddingtons. Nursery versions of *The Water Babies* (1986) and *Peter Pan and Wendy* (1988) show how her own inventive spark sill fired the long-established tradition.

Anne had married her new need to draw and paint animals to an existing love for horses and carriage driving, and so developed in a direction already successfully essayed by her mother. Capitalising on her work with Janet on illustrations to Sallie Walrond's *Encyclopedia of Carriage Driving* (1974), she worked increasingly as an equestrian portraitist, eventually being elected, in 1988, to the Society of Equestrian Artists. She must surely have relished one particular commission which allowed her to combine her experience of the carriage with her profound historical knowledge: as an artist attached to the College of Arms, she undertook the heraldic work on the restored mail coach of the Post Office Museum.

She exhibited her work close to her Suffolk home of Badingham, at Framlingham and Orford, and also in Cambridge and London. Only last Christmas, she attended the private view of the annual illustrators' exhibition at the Chris Beetles Gallery, in St James's, and was thrilled to find the clientele responding to — and buying — her work for picture books. Even now, her two paintings of Bonnie Prince Charlie and Flora MacDonald, used to illustrate Prince Michael Stewart's *The Forgotten Monarchy*, are on display at the Riverside Gallery at Inverness.

Working in her studio until two days before her death, she continued to delight and engage her public to the end of her career.

David Wootton

Anne Graheme Johnstone, illustrator, born June 1, 1928; died May 25, 1998

Charles Rycroft

Tangling with Freud

SOME people found Charles Rycroft, who has died aged 83, a formidable person to meet because of his craggy face, lack of small talk and searching intelligence. Hidden away — perhaps too deep — was a compassionate man who became psychoanalyst to some of the most distinguished men and women of our day.

Rycroft was born into a uniquely British milieu, his father being a baronet, fox-hunter and country gentleman. After Wellington he took an honours degree in economics at Trinity College, Cambridge, and became e research student in modern history. When Trinity presented him with £10 worth of books as a prize, he chose Russell's *Freedom and Organisation*, Marx's *Capital* and Freud's *Psychopathology of Everyday Life*. The three books permeated his early thinking. The Communist Party, into which he was recruited as a student, held him for e while but psychology prevailed.

In his third year he applied to the Institute of Psycho-Analysis to train as an analyst. It was the institute's policy to emphasise medical training and he was accepted provided he took a medical degree first. He always remembered his interview with the rigorous Ernest Jones, who discovered that Rycroft came from an upper-class family. "You will be going to St Bartholomew's in that case," Jones said. Puzzled, Rycroft asked what made him think so. "Oh, that's where all the upper-class dilettantes go."

He qualified medically at 32, finished his analytic training and married his first wife Chloe Majolier. They had two daughters and a son. His second, childless marriage to Jenny Pearson came much later.

In the two decades after the war Rycroft played an important role in the politics of the British Society of Psycho-Analysis and its academic research. He began his private practice in 1947 and was a part-time consultant in psychotherapy to the Tavistock Clinic from 1956.

Disillusion with hard-line psychoanalysis began in 1953. He found the strife within the Institute of Psycho-Analysis time-wasting. Rycroft always remembered the precise day he decided to get out: it was May 5, 1956 — Freud's centenary. Thereafter he conducted his private practice with great success.

From the days of his defection from the institute he began to unravel Freud's model of the psyche. He came to approve the shift away from distribution of libidinal tension to object relations theory. This meant that analysts no longer emphasised the observation of mental processes but gave closer attention to relations with their patients. His book, *The Innocence of Dreams* (1979), exemplified his deviation.

He became the leading critic of psychoanalytic literature in 1953 when David Astor appointed him chief reviewer in the Observer. His *imprimatur* on any book carried great weight.

THE ambition to be a writer had persisted from childhood and 1968 was a prolific publishing year. Psychoanalytic papers apart, he produced two books, one of them a classic of its kind. *Anxiety and Neurosis* set out to dispel the idea that all anxiety is irrational or neurotic. On the contrary, the capacity for anxiety was e biological function necessary for our survival; it was a form of vigilance by which nature kept us alert to threatening or unexplained experiences.

Imagination and Reality (also 1968) attempted to bridge two schools of psychoanalytic thinking: that which believed in the sovereignty of internal processes and that which pressed the role of current social factors. The book examined, defined and classified the role of imagination and its relations with reality. It also explained the popularity of murder stories in terms of the Oedipal complex with the victim an example of the reader's own hostility towards his parents which had to be punished.

Charles Rycroft . . . analyst who hated small talk

Deeply read in history, literature and psychoanalysis, Rycroft could be the most enriching conversationalist — he was one of the most popular members of the Savile Club — but he had to be drawn out. He hated anything resembling heartiness or gossip and remained slightly aloof. However, his haggard face could suddenly radiate as he quoted Karl Kraus on his profession: "Psychoanalysis is that kind of illness of which it thinks itself the cure." A wry smile accompanied the remark: "I have learnt to co-operate with the inevitable."

Known among his friends as a survivor, he always regretted that he had not put himself to the ultimate test, but would not specify what that was. He claimed that one of his work's main themes was people under pressure in extreme situations. Certainly he suffered a number of such experiences, one of which approached breakdown.

Misled by first impressions, there were those who felt that he lacked the spontaneous warmth required by the ideal analyst, but he will be remembered by many grateful patients and is a great loss to both his professions.

Vincent Brome

Charles Rycroft, psychoanalyst, born September 9, 1914; died May 24, 1998

Birthdays

Pat Boone, singer, actor, 64; Martin Brundle, racing driver, 39; Brian Cox, actor, director, 52; Gemma Craven, actress, 48; Lord Deedes, columnist, former editor, Daily Telegraph, 85; Sir Norman Foster, architect, 63; Prof Alan Horwich, radiotherapist, 50; Jean Lambert, chair, Green Party, 48; Bob Monkhouse, comedian, 70; Air Cdre Ruth Montague, former director, WRAF, 59; Prof Paco Peña, flamenco guitarist, 56; Robert Powell, actor, 54; Jonathan Pryce, actor, 51; Benny Rothman, ramblers' champion, 87; Gerald Scarfe, artist, 62; Nigel Short, chess player, 33; Prof Sir Michael Thompson, vice-chancellor, principal, Birmingham University, 67; Sir John Tooley, arts administrator, 74; Edward Woodward, actor, 68.

Lana Morris

Ahead of the Rank and file

LANA Morris, who has died aged 68, was one of the young actresses recruited by the J Arthur Rank film empire in the 1940s and 1950s who were known, rather unfortunately, as "Rank starlets". In common with some others who bore it, she shook off the tag only when she moved on to another outlet for her talents, in her case television.

Her sultry good looks and sexuality, coupled with her ability to master a part quickly and thoroughly, made her a favourite with television audiences and producers alike. She would pop up in thrillers, early forms of soap opera, solemn classics and sometimes — to help out her husband, BBC light entertainment producer Ronnie Waldman — in comedy shows.

She was the hero's eccomplice in a 1951 series about a house detective, *The Inch Man*, and back in hotel employment as the barmaid to Donald Wilson's popular *The Royalty*, starring Margaret Lockwood (1957-58). Later, in 1958, she got better and better in Ken Hughes's *Solo for Canary*, which I cautiously jodged to be "possibly the best BBC crime serial ever".

For Donald Wilson again she played an important if relatively short-lived part in his mammoth serialisation of the *Forsyte Saga* (1967-68). She was Helene, the French governess with whom young Jolyon (Kenneth More) sets up a love nest, thereby scandalising the family and suffering banishment beyond London's social pale, to Chelsea or even St John's Wood. In the story Helene falls off the mantelpiece and is killed. "Falling off was hard enough, without having to do it in French," she wrote to Wilson.

"She was in many of my productions.She was very clever, very professional," Wilson says. "She studied the great actors and made herself a very good one. And she always knew her lines from the first day of rehearsal."

Twenty yeers later she again became e familiar face on the TV screen, as Vanessa Andenberg in the seawater soap opera *Howards' Way*.

Morris . . . sultry good looks and hard work

On her mother's side, Lana Morris had well-established theatrical roots. Her great-grandfather was a member of Henry Irving's Lyceum company; her mother, Corinna Burford, was a film actress in the silent era. Morris made her acting debut, aged 16, at the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park to 1946. Her first film as e Rank starlet was *Spring in Park Lane*, the romantic comedy starring Anna Neagle and Michael Wilding which scored an unexpected success in 1948.

Seven or eight less-than-masterpieces followed, of which the knockabout Norman Wisdom comedy *Trouble in Store* (1953) remains the best known, and e melodrama called *The Woman in Question* (1950) was perhaps the most significant. Its device of presenting e murder victim (played by Jean Kent) through the eyes of different people who had known her was one which seemed to belong more to the intimacy of television than the cinema, and in fact it became part of the everyday grammar of TV story-telling.

Ronnie Waldman's name had been made as the snappy question-master on the prewar and wartime radio miscellany *Monday Night at Seven*, later *Monday Night at Eight*. Lana Morris met him on the set of one his regular TV shows, *Kaleidoscope*. Soon after their marriage he was promoted to be head of the light entertainment department, and ended his career as managing director of Visnews, the television news agency of which the BBC was part-owner. He died to 1978. They had a son, Simon, who also went into broadcasting.

Morris resumed her acting career as her son grew up, and eppeared to at least one West End hit, the farce *Move Over, Mrs Markham*. She had been due to partner Michael Praed and Rula Lenska to *Dangerous to Know*, e new Barbara Taylor Bradford play et the Theatre Royal, Windsor, but she collapsed and died before the official first night.

Philip Purser

Lena Morris, actress, born March 11, 1930; died Msy 27, 1998

Ruud Gullit, world class footballer, manager and now writing for us for the whole of the World Cup.

The Observer

Ruud Gullit joins the team in our World Cup supplement this Sunday.

A Country Diary

GREDOS, Spain: In the montane regions of the world I'm always struck by four seemingly universal truths: the temperature and air pressure fall, the scenery becomes greener and hotel walls are adorned with the horns of the local game. In the Gredos, the mountain range west of Madrid, the unlucky beast was the Spanish ibex. Every parador seemed to sport at least one set of the males' deeply corrugated, curved horns. Yet this Spanish population is the smallest amongst the various European forms of the Ibex. Even the biggest males reach only about 80kg, puny compared with the races found further east in the Alps. But size didn't seem to matter to the macho hunters of Iberia. Nor did they seem to bother about the disastrous collapse in numbers as the trophies mounted. By the end of the 19th century the ibex were thought to number just 20. A hunting ban was imposed and the population recovered, which was doubly fortunate since the creature was taxonomically upgraded and later declared a unique species. Today there are several thousand of these beautiful animals and the Gredos are an important stronghold. Free from persecution, they have become quite tame. Bachelor herds of males eyed us from the surrounding rocks and even allowed themselves to be chased by whooping schoolchildren. But the females and their young were more cautious. The mothers scrutinised our movements from inaccessible redoubts while their cute kids, about the size of an eagle's dinner, tottered and gambolled across the slopes.

MARK COCKER

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

IN A REPORT on Page 17, May 21, headed Top aide puts Netanyahus in a spin, we said of Mr Netanyahu's media adviser: "Mr Bar-Illan's name was reportedly struck off the passenger list of the prime minister's flight home from a US visit on Monday." Mr Bar-Illan has asked us to say that the Israeli newspaper reports, which were the source for this statement, were wrong. He says he was never supposed to take that plane and had prior engagements in the US.

LUCILLE McLAUCHLAN is not an English nurse, as we suggested in a column on Page 5, G2, May 27. She is Scottish. So is Shirley Manson of the group Garbage, and therefore she cannot with the three Americans in the group make up an "Anglo-American foursome" (Page 21, Friday Review, May 8).

BIRO is not a generic name for ballpoint pen. It is a trademark owned by Biro Bic Ltd in the UK and ebout 60 other countries. In our e-mail column from Tehran, Page 16, May 18, we said, "only transparent biros are allowed". That is not allowed.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' editor by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9697. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

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هكذا من الاصل

Post-Keynesians prepare for battle, page 12
Tomorrow: Emap's multi-media millions

Executive Financial Editor: Ben Clissitt
Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance **Guardian**

Help-lines to the rescue

More steel jobs to go

One-third of BS workers at risk

David Gow

BRITISH Steel is planning to shed thousands of jobs over the next three years in order to boost profits and slash costs hit by the strong pound.

The UK's largest steel manufacturer, which is already shedding 2,000 jobs, said yesterday it saw "a significant level of job redncticns" among its worldwide workforce of 50,300 over the coming years. It employs 40,000 in the UK.

But the company, which employed 165,000 in 1980 and still makes the same amount of steel, refused to comment on analysts' estimates that up to 12,500 jobs will go by March 2001. That would amount to a third of its UK workforce.

News of a further round of job cuts in heavy industry coincided with plans by Sitel UK, a telecommunications company, to create 10,000 jobs over the next five years. Sitel UK now employs only 2,500 at six British call centres.

In a dramatic illustration of shifts in the British labour market over 20 years from manufacturing to services, Sitel said more people now work in telephone call centres than in coal, steel and car-making combined.

Call of the new . . . British industry changes its face as steel jobs give way to telephone call centres

Analysts at Salomon Smith Barney expect British Steel to report later this month pre-tax profits for the year to March 1998 down to £255 million, from £451 million in 1997 and £1.1 billion in 1996. They say the cost-cutting programme could boost earnings to £730 million by 2001.

In order to match continental levels of costs, like those of Dutch rival Hoogovens, British Steel could save £300 million a year by cutting thousands of mostly white-collar jobs, and a further £160 million by reducing the number of its suppliers.

John Bowden, the company's spokesman, said: "We have said from the start this programme is very mnch about working practices, team-working and the need for retraining among our remaining workforce." Salomon Smith Barney says this will rednce management to three hasic levels and broaden workers' roles.

He added: "But we have not put any pegs in the ground in terms of how many job cuts there will be."

About 1,500 of the 2,000 planned job cuts have already taken place.

Paul Cresswell, Sitel UK's managing director, said he expects his firm to quadruple its sales from £60 million to £250 million by 2002, and to employ more than 12,000 people by then. Call centres, he added, are the growth industry in the UK.

"By 2002, 2.3 per cent of the UK's working population will be employed in this field . . . and the number of call centres will rise from 3,500 to 5,000."

But Sitel, whose headquarters are in Omaha, Nebraska, last week disclosed that it was cutting just under 100 British-based jobs, 5 per cent of its UK workforce, in order "to shape the company for this long-term strategic growth".

Switch off for power firms

Lisa Buckingham

SAVAGE competition on prices and a wava of new market entrants could squeeze up to half the electricity supply firms out of the £9 hillion-a-year market within six years, research published today reveals.

Although consumers may benefit from cheaper electricity, only a handful of the supply companies will survive in the market, the report from Coopers & Lybrand predicts.

Others are expected to go through mergers, acquisitions, or to give up in the face of the competitive onslaught.

Scottish Power and Eastern Electricity are tipped to head the survivors' list, with British Gas seen as a potent threat among new entrants.

The research follows findings hy C & L, which revealed that 55 per cent of consumers were open to changing their power supplier.

The study says that customers will increasingly demand "one-stop" shops for fuel. Deregulation in telecommunications and gas has helped create more sophisticated consumers, who will switch between suppliers and be more comfortable with the idea of buying a diverse range of prodncts from a strong hrand name.

Many companies will become unprofitable if they lose 15 to 20 per cent of their customers.

But while price competition will be critical in the early period of deregulation, long-term success will depend on creating a strong brand.

Electric Transformation, £130, from Barbara Shaw at C & L, on 0171-213 2529.

Sir John Hall in a mood to take the ball and run with it

PHOTOGRAPH: WILL WALKER

Hall's name taken off Newcastle transfer list

Lisa Buckingham

SIR John Hall is expected to remaiu chairman of Newcastle United football cluh despite an earlier agreement that his return would be temporary and end today.

A friend of Sir John, who resumed chairmanship after the damaging scandal at the clnh earlier this year, said: "He could easily be persuaded to stay on."

The possibility that Sir John, whose money salvaged Newcastle's financial fortunes hefore it waa floated, will remain as chairman became more likely after Sir Terence Harrison stepped down last week as chairman of the public company which owns the football club.

The two men are believed to have been at loggerheads over how the company could be changed to make it more acceptable to City investors. Sir Terence wanted the boardroom of the football club and that of the public company to become one, arguing that the Hall family ahareholding should be reduced from 57 per cent to less than 30 per cent.

Sir Terence also insisted that Sir John should leave as caretaker chairman at the end of the season. He had not relished his return, hut accepted the need for stability after Sir John's son, Douglas, and another execntive, Freddy Shepherd, were forced out after making derogatory remarks abont Newcastle women, fans and players.

In his resignation statement, Sir Terence described his departure as "constrnctive". Freddie Fletcher, the chief executive, is said to be "relaxed" ahont the prospect of Sir John remaining. One insider said: "Everyone now just wants to find a way of working together so people can focus on the business and football."

Newcastle made it to the FA Cup Final, hut only just survived in the Premier League.

American Notebook

Chipping away at Intel's empire

Mark Tran

JUST as Microsoft and the US Justice Department are digging in for their showdown in September, the Federal Trade Commission is poised to unveil its own anti-trust case against Intel, the world's largest chip maker.

Should the five commissioners at the FTC accept their staff's recommendations to pursue Intel in the absence of a settlement, it would mean that the two pillars of the US personal computer industry would come under government attack for allegedly ahnsing thair monopoly power. Mlcrosoft controls 90 per cent of the market for PC operating sytems. Intel supplies 90 per cent of the microprocessors that power PCs in a duopoly dubbed Wintel.

Both companies reached the pinnacle of their husiness under the command of two technologically hrilliant and fiercely competitive leaders. Bill Gates is probably the world's most recognisable chief executive. Andy Grove, until recently chief executive of Intel, is not as well known, but he too has earned the admiration of his peers.

Time magazine last year named him Man of the Year, chronicling his escape first from the Nazis and then from Soviet troops in Hungary and his ascent in Silicon Valley to lead Intel, based in Santa Clara, California. Bnt the message from Washington is that companies should compete hy different rules once they amass monopoly power. The ronghshod tactics that are acceptable to claw your way to the top become unacceptable once you get there.

ANTI-TRUST jurisdiction in the US falls under both the FTC and the Justica Department. The agencies must decide between themselves which one reviews which merger, a process that has resulted in squabhling over who gets the headline-making deals. Now that work abounds for anti-trust lawyers at both agencies, turf fights are no longer an issue. In the latest high-profile cases, Justice has its hands full with Microsoft, so it became a natural division of labour for the FTC to grapple with Intel.

Joel Klein, the head of anti-trust at Justice, often has lunch with his counterpart at the FTC, Robert Pitofsky. Once the Justice Department started investigating Microsoft, it was almost inevitable that Intel would come under scrutiny as well.

"It's important that we're on the same wavelength, that people don't find inconsistencies between what they're doing and what we're doing," says Mr Pitofsky. "We hardly ever fight any more about who gets cases. Both of us are up to our eyeballs."

The proposed FTC lawsuit accuses Intel of illegally retaliating against four companies, including Digital Equipment Corporation, a computer maker, and Intergraph, a maker of powerful workstations used by designers and engineers, after the two companies became embroiled with Intel over patent lawsuits last year.

Specifically, Intel is accused of holding back advanced product information and samples of new microprocessors from the two companies. Intel normally shares such information and samples to allow companies to design new systems in advance of the release of the new chips.

ACCORDING to an FTC lawyer, withholding that data "is a nuclear weapon for a monopolist". The commission may file even more charges against Intel later in the year, accusing the company of using predatory pricing and contract provisions to squeeze its few competitors in the market — the same kind of complaints made against Microsoft.

Like Mlcrosoft, Intel is greatly feared hy competitors for using its monopoly in one area to gain advantage in new markets. Intel plans to enter the graphics chip market with a chip being designed with the help of Lockheed Martin that takes advantage of Intel's initiatives in adding multimedia features to its chips. Competitors in this field worry that they will see a replay of Intel's 1995 market grab of chip sets, which control the flow of data from the microprocessor lo other components within a personal computer. At the time, rivals in chip sets such as Cirrus Logic complained that they no longer had access to key data about coming microprocessors and therefore could not design their chip sets as fast as Intel could. In just a few years Intel went on from zero to control 69 per cent of the chip sets market.

The distraction of an anti-trust lawsuit is the last thing Intel needs. Profit margins are eroding as the company is forced to reduce the price of its chips for computers costing less than $1,000 (£610), demand for PCs is falling as a result of Asia's economic turmoil and competitors are releasing chips that are faster and cheaper than Intel's Pentiums.

All this at a time when Mr Grove has stepped aside as chief executive to make way for Craig Barrett, formerly Intel's president. In a sign of ebbing confidence in the company, Intel executives have been stepping up insider sales of Intel shares. This month Intel's share price has been hovering around $70, well off its 52-week high of $102.

So ironically, an anti-trust lawsuit would come at a time when Intel is looking more vulnerable than it has for years. A punter who invested $10,000 in Intel in Jannary 1992 would have seen that stake balloon to $90,000 today. As problems accumulate for the world's largest chip maker, Intel will have a tough time repeating that kind of spectacular gain over the next six years.

Travelers eyes Tokyo brokerage

Financial Staff

TRAVELERS, the American financial services company, is in talks to buy up to 25 per cent of Nikko Securities, the third-largest brokerage in Japan, for about £900 million, according to weekend reports.

Travelers, which is merging with Citicorp to create tha world's biggest financial group, is keen to grab a larger slice of the Japanese investment market, which is being deregulated. Japan'a institutions have been hard hit by the recent economic slump.

Nikko, for example, has run up losses in three of the past four years although the firm — which ranks after Nomura and Daiwa — said its deficit has been narrowing.

If negotiations are successful it will be the latest in a string of alliances which are being formed between Japan's leading financial groups and foreign houses.

Merill Lynch took over branches and hired thousands of employees from Yamaichi Securities when the firm, Japan's fourth-largest brokerage, went hankrupt. HSBC, Fidelity Investments and Goldman Sachs recently cemented alliances with Japanese banking groups.

Although Nikko and Travelers would not comment on the talks, reports said the US company, which owns Salomon Smith Barney, wants to form a joint-venture securities firm in Tokyo in addition to taking s share stake. The New York Times said Deryck Maghan, co-chairman of Salomon, was in Japan for talks.

Salomon is already one of the largest international firms in Tokyo with about 600 employees and profits of 83.5 billion yen (£370 million) in the year to March. Travelers also has two joint ventures in the mutual fund sector with Nikko, whose earnings were hit when it was barred from trading on its own account for a period of 10 weeks as punishment for its involvement in a scandal over payments to a racketeer.

GEC-Marconi sets sights on French missile outfit

Plunging budgets have forced Socialists' hand, writes **David Gow**

GEC-MARCONI, the defence arm of the cash-rich General Electric Company, is considering plans to take over or acquire a stake in the tactical missiles business of Aerospatiale, when the French state-owned aviation firm is sold later this year.

Tha move, already discussed by Marconi and Aerospatiale executives, was given a boost by last week's surprise decision hy France's Socialist government to clear the way for at least a partial privatisation of the Toulouse-based aerospace company.

Aarospatiale has heen given a mandate by Lionel Jospin, the French premier, to conclude "rapidly" strategic alliances — notably in the sectors for fighter aircraft, tactical missiles and space-launchers. It has told the City it expects to spin off activities before the end of this year.

Marconi, Europe's second-largest defence electronics company, is keen to expand its presence in France. It was thwarted last year in trying to take over Thomson-CSF, its bigger rival, but has ventures with Thomson in sonar, and with Matra in satellites. Mr Jospin's goverument is now said by industry insiders to be ready to countenance non-French participants in an aerospace and defence industry hit by falling budgets.

Aerospatiale's misailes business is relatively weak, with its main programme being the Aster anti-air missile developed for the new Horizon common frigate, which has been commissioned for the British, French and Italian navies, for which GEC is a sub-contractor.

Short of capital to fund its research and development projects, the missiles division is cutting its workforce from 4,300 to 3,000, and closing four of its seven plants.

But Marconi executives believe that a tie-up could help GEC provide a atrong counter-weight to Matra BAe Dynamics, the guided missiles business jointly owned by British Aerospace and Lagardère, which also owns 30 per cent of LFK, the missiles arm of Germany's Daimler-Benz Aerospace, Dasa.

Under Lord (George) Simpson, its managing director, GEC is increasingly reliant on Marconi for both its sales and its earnings.

After the £833 million takeover of Tracor, an American defence electronics firm, Marconi will provide about half of GEC's total business.

GEC, which is completing a new joint venture with Italy's Alenia, is also determined to stay aloof from government-sponsored plans to create a single European aeroapace and defence company — to be named Euroco — around BAe, Aerospatiale and Dasa.

Its executives argue that two pan-European firms — one built on airframes, the other on defence electronic systems — would provide healthy competition.

"We are a trans-national firm, the aixth-biggest US company. We are keen *not* to be seen as British, and that'a why you won't hear ns talking about Euroco," a GEC-Marconi spokesman said.

BAe executives and their German counterparts, however, insist that a single European company is essential to meet the US challenge, and they have defence analysts' backing. Lord Simpson is equally hostile to GEC being absorbed by arch-rival BAe.

The Marconi spokesman added: "We are interested in relationships with all sorts of firms. But it would be premature to suggest that we are going to do anything further at the moment."

British join final lap of Rolls race

This week

Tony May

THE hattle for Rolls-Royce, the luxury car manufacturer, comes to a head on Friday, with a team of British enthusiasts led by barrister Michael Shrimpton hoping to trump German bidders Volkswagen and BMW.

Mr Shrimpton asid his group, Crewe Motors, would make a higher offer than VW's £430 million. Vickers, Rolls-Royce's owner, still expects the VW offer to be approved by shareholders st Friday'a special meeting.

Boots' recent third-quarter results caused some anxiety, but the group's final results should show a 3 per cent rise in profit to £560 million on Thursday, and most analysts remain positive about its long-term prospects.

Analysts will need reassuring on a few points. They said that last time the company reported they were particularly disappointed hy the performance of Boots The Chemists because they expected some sales uplift from the impact of Advantage, Boots' loyalty card, which was launched in September.

They were also disappointed with the performance of and DIY operation Do-It-All but do not expect a statement about disposal of the chain, although it is said to be up for sale.

The fire last October at Boots The Chemists' Nottingham warehouse is expected to have wiped out about £30 million off sales.

TODAY — Interims Cardiff Property, Ultraframe. **Finals:** Columbus, First, South Staffs Water.
TOMORROW — Interims Apollo Metals, Character, Eurocamp, Greencore, Landround, MEPC, Ushers of Trowbridge. **Finals:** Axian, Cafe Inns, De La Rue, Filtrona, National Grid, Oxford Instruments, Stebo, Thames Water, Vocalis, Vodafone.
WEDNESDAY — Interims: Asset Management, Blick, Hawtin, Heals, Lookers, Morland, NFC, United Drug. **Finals:** Bristol United Press, Caffyns, Evans of Leeds, Shanks & McEwan, Victoria.
THURSDAY — Finals: Airsprung Furniture, Boots, BTG, Helical Bar, Luminar, Pilkington, Powell Duffryn, Sedgemoor, Solvera, Southern Electric, SI, Thorn Lighting.
FRIDAY — Finals: Bendi, Park Food.

Blair's Gladstone bag is falling apart

Larry Elliott

THE Prime Minister seemed to enjoy himself hugely at the CBI dioner last week. After delivering his speech before the tuck arrived so that it would make the Nina O'Clock News, Tony Blair chatted merrily to Adair Turner as if the director-general of the employers' organisation were a close friend. Which, of course, he is.

There are obvious similarities between the two: both are Oxbridge-educated, in thair aarly fortiea, have young families. According to one senior industrialist, that is not all they share: "Adair and Tony get on so well because at root they are both old-fashioned liberals."

This theory is worth study, if only because perhaps it helps explain why part of the Labour Party — the socialist part — feels uneasy about the direction in which the Government is heading. But there are old-fashioned liberals and old-fashioned liberals; what sort of liberalism are we talking about here?

Certainly, there are parts of the Prima Minister's economic philosophy, given at length to the CBI last Wednesday, which are Gladstonian: the core beliefs of free trade, free movement of capital, balanced budgets, monetary and financial stability. Gladstone believed governments should not be expected to manage the economy, and Tony Blair — to an exteot — shares this credo. Given the limitations imposed by globalisation, he says moderu governments have little scope to tinker around with the economy in a Keynesian way but should concentrate on making markets — particularly the labour market — better.

Parts of the Blair agenda are more redolent of Asquith's government than of any of Gladstoue's four ministries, however. The reason is simple: history has repeated itself. The first half of the 19th century saw the golden age of laissez-faire: abolition of the Corn Laws, scrapping of centuries-old controls on wages, the harrying and hounding of the poor. But the limitations of the market — in terms of poverty, inequality and instability — soon became apparent, and attempts were made as the century wore on to knock some rough edges off the laissez-faire model.

By the first decade of the 20th century, it was obvious to the Liberal government tbat the Gladstonian approach was no longer tenable. The growing strength of trade unions and the rise of the Labour Party — themselves a reaction to the excesses of the unhridled free market — reflected demands for a more interventlooist approach, particularly to social policy. The response from the Liberal government was Winston Churchill's decisiou to set up wages councils to put a floor beneath wages aud Lloyd George's People's Budget of 1909, which laid the foundations of the modern welfare state.

Asquith reforms were an an early attempt to carve out a third way

Asquith's government was one of the great reforming administrations of the 20th century, and in its fashion an early attempt at carving a third way betweeu Conservatism and Socialism. But in the end it was overwhelmed by events; it had uo answers to the collapse of the late 19th century global economy in the face of War, Slump and Protectionism.

The questiou uow is whether Mr Blair's blend of liberalism will face the same fate if today's global economy goes the same way as the pre-1914 model. There are plenty of people who will argue that there is nothing to worry about, and that with a few modest reforms a uew golden age beckons.

The current orthodoxy does not suggest that late 20th century free-market capitalism has attained a state of perfection. Not quite, because that would mean no role for the small army of skilled technicians who tinker with the machine — a bit of education and training here, a rejig of the benefit system there — in order to keep it running sweetly. But free trade, free movement of capital, privatisation, low taxes, flexible labour markets: these cannot seriously be questioned.

But it is time tha orthodoxy was challenged. Consider the following pieces of news from the past few days. Hong Kong has seen its first quarter of falling output in 13 years. Japan's unemployment rate has risen above 4 per cent for the first time on record, South Korea is gripped by a general strika and the economy has hit a brick wall, interest rates in Russia rose to 150 per cent and the government is sending in armed taxmen to seize atate revenuas, India and Pakistan are involved in a game of uuclear chicken.

So far, western Europe and North America have not been touched by these evants, but the global economy now is like a building withont any fire doors: Asian flu could spread to Europa through Russia, Wall Street could be brought down by a full-scale slump in Japan triggered by a devaluation in China. Unfortunately, it may take a deepening of the crisis to bring about long-overdoa reassessment of the neo-liberal orthodoxy.

There are signs of a new generation of post-Keynesians preparing for battle. In the latest editiou of The Economic Journal, the American economist Paul Davidson restates Keynes's thesis that flexible exchange rates and free international capital mobility are incompatible with global full employment and rapid economic growth in an era of multilateral free trade.

Davidson argues that when "volatile exchange rates depress global investmeut spending and deficits are precluded, then if the worldly wisdom of central bankers is that inflation can only be held in check by promoting the fear of 'job insecurity' among workers, the rate of interest will be used to perpetuate unemployment rather than promote prosperity.

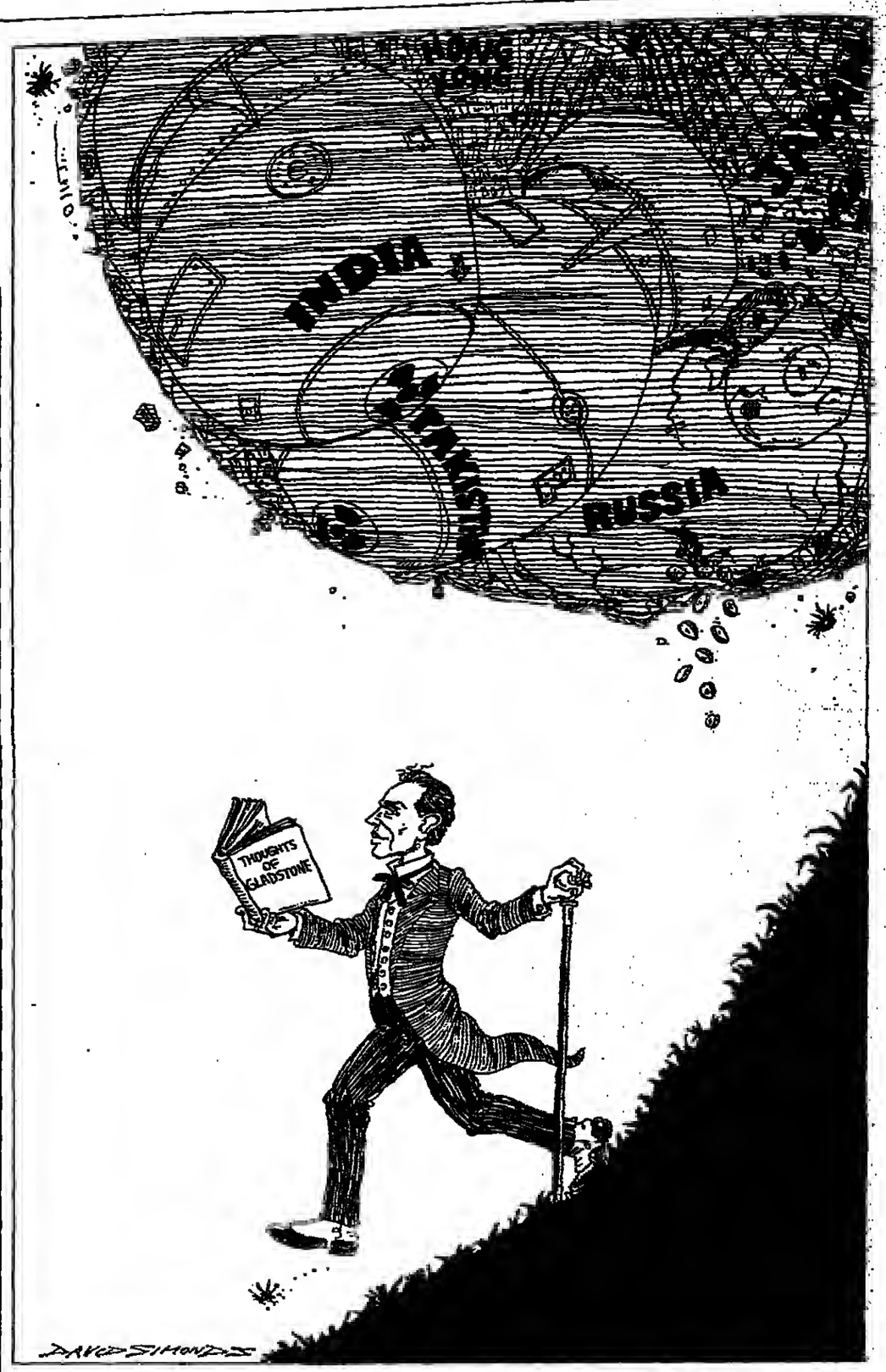
"Subscribing to the conventional wisdom rationalised by natural rate theories, politicians and central bankers have foisted on to society a Hobson's choice that has devastating real effects on industry and the global economy."

To complete the argument, Davidson mines a chunk of the General Theory. "In truth," Keynes wrote, "the opposite of the conventional wisdom holds good. It is the policy of an autonomous rate of interest, unimpeded by international preoccupations, and of a national investment programme directed to an optimum level of domestic employment which is twice blessed in the sense that it helps ourselves and our ueighbours at the same time. And it is the simultaneous purusit of these policies by all countries together which is capable of restoring economic health and strength internationally, whether we measure it by the level of domestic employment or by the volume of international trade".

Also in the EJ, Jakob Madsen turns the aupply-side dogma of the past 20 years on its head. Microecouomic reforms such as lower taxes, lower unemployment benefits and more flexible labour markets are not going to solve the unemployment problem, he argues.

What is more, Madsen finds that most swings in unemployment around the trend are caused by demand shocks such as changes in consumer confidence, fiscal and monetary policies, or changes in foreign income — all entirely consistent with the Keynesian model. Expansive fiscal and monetary measures are likely to be more effective than fiddling around with tha supply side, even if economists and politicians have turued away from these remedies.

There is no chance that policy-makers will take a blind bit of uotice of Davidson and Madsen. Not yet, at any rate. But it should be remembered that Keynes was a Liberal, and if Britain is to be governed by old-fashioned liberalism it might as well be the right sort.



Redefining spent force

Briefing

Mark Atkinson

PUBLIC Spending, the title of Newsolght Economics Correspondent Evan Davis's new book, does not does not sound like a rattling good read.

Do not be put off. If you get beyond the front cover, which depicts pound coins raining down on the Houses of Parliament, you will be rewarded with a refreshing, entertaining and well written perspective on a dry bot important subject which is about to hit the headlines in a big way over the next few weeks with completion of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).

As well as providing a compact guide to the recent history of public spending, it catches the mood of the moment. Davis rejects the polarised perspectives of the left (which sees public spending as benign and effective) and the right (which views it as a mouater that has to be tamed). Instead, he argues (yes, you guessed it) for a non-ideological Third Way.

Davis says that "nonsensical" spending should be cut, but he does not belong to the small-state brigade. Indeed, he believes a strong state can promote social cohesiveness.

Davis argues that the size of the state is irrelevant; what matters is what people want from the state — high quality public services — and how efficient it is in delivering them.

By that yardstick, Davis, citing public opinion polls, argues that the state has failed dismally and urgently needs to raise its game to the level of the private sector to restore public trust.

He believes that the best way of doing this is to separate the state's role as purchaser of services on behalf of the public from its role as provider of them, the so-called purchaser/provider split.

While continuing to pay for health, edocation, etc, the state should buy in more from competitive suppliers in the private sector, which he says is generally more efficient, dynamic and entrepreneurial.

Of course, this is not new. It is a route down which the Tories and New Labour have travelled.

Both parties have embraced the Private Finance Initiative, for example, uoder which private capital pays for schools, hospitals, roads, etc, in return for a service contract with the state.

Davis believes, however, that the Government should go further. He says the PFI is a welcome circumvention of Treasury accounting rules but that it is not a systematic way of reforming the public sector because it relates only to oew capital projects.

EXISTING capital also has to be exposed to the full rigours of the market to achieve true efficiency gains, including allowing schools, hospitals, etc, to go bust when they run into trouble.

If you genuinely believe in the power of the market to deliver a better service than the state, this is logically consistent.

But it understates the potential political difficulties. What parent, for example, is simply going to shrug his or her shoulders and attribute it to the pitfalls of the market if their child has to be withdrawn from school halfway through a term leading up to exams because of the financial mismanagement of the school head?

The government would be directly in the firing line.

The purchaser/providar split also creates difficulties for the Treasury and, ultimately, the taxpayer because it loosens state control over public spending.

Improved efficiency in public services is an admirable goal but achieving it is easier far from easy — as Alistair Darling, chief secretary to the Treasury and thus in charge of the CSR, has no doubt been finding out.

Public Spending, by Evan Davis, Penguin, £8.99

Economics made easy

How do the banks set interest rates? They don't, says Charlotte Denny. They're in thrall to the Bank of England and sado-monetarism

How are interest rates set?
It depends on how long you are borrowing for and how good a risk you are. Commercial rates are set by banks, whose rates are linked to the Bank of England's base rate. The official rate is known as the "repo" rate.

What's that?
It's the price at which the Bank of England lends to other banks. It does this through a "sale and rapurchase" agreemant — hence "repo" rate. The banks borrow by selling nominated assets to the central bank and buying them back with interest.

Why do they borrow from the Bank of England?
Commercial banks occasionally have problems with liquidity — they have lots of long-term loans outstanding, but no cash in hand to pay depositors, who can demand their money at any time. Mostly banks solve their liquidity problems by lending money to each other but occasionally, for instance, when they are paying their tax bills, they need to borrow money from the central bank.

The Bank of England is the lender of last resort — it will lend money to the other banks in order to keep cash flowing, but only at a price.

How does this price affect other interest rates?
If commercial banks borrow money at a higher rate of interest from the Bank of England than they charge on customers' loans, the banks are not doing good business. Obviously not all rates change at once, but sooner or later, when the Bank of England raises the price of money, most other interest rates have to rise too.

Who decides what official interest rates are going to be?
It used to be the Chancellor, after a monthly meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England. When the Labour Government came to power last May, one of its first acts was to give the Bank of England the power to set interest rates independently.

Why did it do that?
Many other countries have independent central banks — for example, Germany and the US — and some economists think that central banks are better at fighting inflation than politicians.

Why?
Because they believe that politicians will be distracted by wanting to run the economy at full tilt, and will not be prepared to slow it down to squeeze out inflation. Even if politicians could be trusted to tackle inflation, some economists say it is still better to let a central bank run monetary policy because the markets and wage-bargainers believe it to be tougher than politicians.

How does that help fight inflation?
If they know that inflation-nutters are running monetary policy people will not ask for wage rises because they know the Bank will make them pay by squeezing the economy through higher rates.

Monetary masochism?
That's the idea. Or even "sado-monatarism", as somebody once described it.

Have we got sado-monetarists running monetary policy now?
It appears not. The nine members of the Bank's monetary policy committee are all committed to meeting the Government's 2.5 per cent target for inflation, but the majority are hesitating about putting up interest rates again, even though they think there is still a risk of missing the inflation target.

But surely inflation is already over 2.5 per cent?
Right. Headline inflation is at 4 per cent, and the target measure is 3 per cent. But the Bank's goal is to have inflation under control over a two-year period, so there is an excuse for not being on target.

Understanding Asian flu and that stuff about a crisis

Worm's eye

Dan Atkinson

BAFFLED by the world crisis? Dizzied by trying to keep up with the onward march of Asian flu? Puzzle no longer. Here, exclusively, is your crisis codebreaker. Read on, and amaze your friends!

The position in Japan is an obvious cause for concern: All its banks are sinking, but apart from that . . .

There has been a disappointing response by the Japanese people to repeated injections of liquidity: They've invested it all in Wall Street.

China may well be able to ride the storm more effectively: With the help of a few public executions.

A mogul's feast of business opportunities, the super-tiger economy, tomorrow's giant: What we said about India before its nuclear test.

Unstable, illiterate, poverty-stricken, living off western handouts: What wa said about India after its nuclear test.

A long-overdue adjustment with no serious implications: What they said about the Asian crisis last year.

A major challenge to international institutions and to the ingenuity of policy makers: What they said about the Asian crisis early this year.

Help!: What they are saying about the Asian crisis now.

Make no mistake, Russia's difficulties have little to do with events in the Far East: We hope.

They pose no threat to western European economies: They don't, do they? Someone?

Russian interest rates of 150 per cent seem to have done the trick: By shutting down the economy and making everyone live off barter.

Moscow's austerity package has the IMF seal of approval: The kiss of death.

Meanwhile, German industry is biting the bullet of restructuring: Pip pip, thousands of jobs at Daimler and VW.

France, however, has some way to go: It is rumoured a few French people still have secure jobs.

Few tears will be shed for the demise of dictator Suharto: Except by the big western investors who kept him in power for 30 years.

Indonesia can now move forward: Into civil war.

The world community must be as supportive as possible: So as to postpone its invasion of Australia until after they've ditched the Queen, so we can duck out.

Nearer to home, it is in everyone's interest that the euro should be a success: Well, it isn't actually, but try to keep a straight face.

It will give ordinary Europeans a world-class currency: Like the rupiah.

Britain is enjoying a new mood of confidence: There's another property boom.

There is an air of risk-taking and experimentation in the business world: Nasty theme restaurants, sports bars, lap-dancing clubs.

But it is important not to be complacent: They will all go bust soon enough.

We should remember the British economy is at the peak of the cycle: The only way is down!

Indicators

TODAY — UK: Provisional M0 (May).
UK: Purchasing Managers' Report (May).
TOMORROW — UK: Consumer Credit (Apr).
WEDNESDAY — UK: PM Report on Services (May).
UK: Monetary Policy Committee Meeting (to 4th).
THURSDAY — UK: CBI Distributive Trades Survey (May).
FRIDAY — EU: EU Finance Ministers' Meeting.
US: Unemployment Rate (May).
US: Non-farm Payrolls (May).
GER: Gross Domestic Product, pan (Q1).

Source: HSBC Markets Limited.

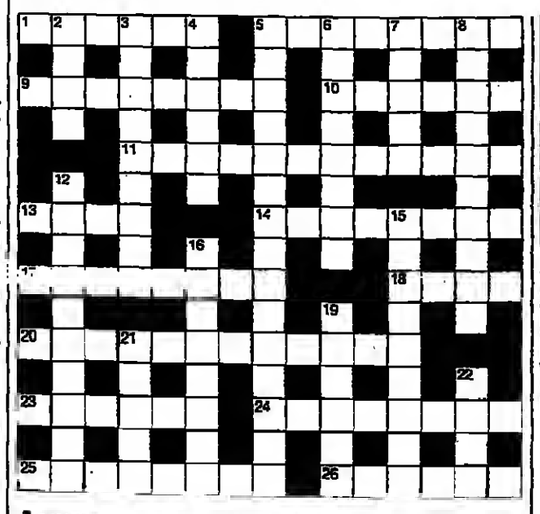
Tourist rates - bank sells

Australia 2.547	Germany 2.8212	Malaysia 6.259	Singapore 2.87
Austria 19.82	Greece 485.48	Malta 0.62	South Africa 8.22
Belgium 58.10	Hong Kong 12.24	Netherlands 3.1682	Spain 237.94
Canada 2.31	India 67.44	New Zealand 2.97	Sweden 12.44
Cyprus 0.63	Ireland 1.1182	Norway 11.95	Switzerland 2.33
Denmark 10.79	Israel 5.846	Portugal 287.58	Turkey 402,790
Finland 8.647	Italy 2,798	Saudi Arabia 5.99	US 1.5815
France 8.427			

Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shekel and mdollar)

Guardian Crossword No 21,289

Set by Rufus

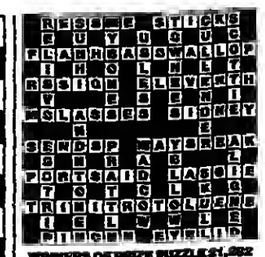


Across

1 Cycle enclosure (6)
5 Investigation reaches wrong outcoma after right start (8)
9 Movingly depict an academic (8)
10 He gets nothing not recorded right (6)
11 Considering holding a party (12)
13 In ancient myth she became a goddess (4)
14 Writes one's first letters (8)
17 Aiming to improve the outsida of the house (8)
18 Speed unions insist upon to get the job done (4)
20 Hostile remark one was going to make (8,4)
23 Country put in a word of thanks for foreign capital (6)
24 Set off in good time towards dawn (8)
25 As an afterthought, changes the books (8)
26 Display well started (3,3)

Down

2 I dry up dessert dishes (4)
3 Changed circumstances may put a different complexion on it (9)
4 English country property (6)
5 Those investing in pop music watch each and every act (9,6)
6 Picadors are involved here and there (8)
7 Tall story swallowed by an outsider (5)
8 Chars overtime to wipe off debts (5,5)
12 Crack ace orbits with a display of stunt flying (10)
15 Going back to living by oneself? (2,7)
16 I'm about to draw gun in temper (8)
19 Revising his set subject (6)
21 Be losing track? (5)
22 It's useful for making the pitch (4)



WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 21,282

This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Mrs W. L. Garnett of Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire, John Slevin of Reading, Berkshire, Rev. C. F. Morton of Birmingham, Pru and Robin Stott of Warwick, and Brian Ashworth of Manchester.

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Dominic Cork returns to England's Test ranks
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The new Seve
David Davies meets Spain's boy wonder Sergio Garcia
18

Other pages
Football 14,15
Cricket 16,17
Golf 18,19, 20
Rugby League 21
Racing 22
Tennis 24

The Guardian Sport
Monday June 1 1998 www.cricket98.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPH OF GLENN HODDLE BY ROSS KINNAIRD

Glenn Hoddle's 22 for France

PAUL Gascoigne has played in his first and last World Cup. Glenn Hoddle has decided that Gascoigne is not fit enough for France and has left him out of the England squad he will formally announce here at lunchtime today

This is not the only surprise. Rio Ferdinand, the 19-year-old West Ham United sweeper, has been included, giving Hoddle an important defensive option. Both Paul Merson, his intermittent international career once more revived, and Steve McManaman are there as well.

Les Ferdinand has won Hoddle's vote over Dion Dublin for the vacancy among the strikers left by Ian Wright's withdrawal with a hamstring injury. As expected Nigel Martyn, impressive against Belgium in Casablanca on Friday, has pipped Ian Walker for the third goalkeeping place.

Last night the six discarded players were heading home, striking Spanish air traffic controllers permitting. In addition to Gascoigne, Walker and Dublin, Phil Neville, Andy Hinchcliffe and Nicky Butt have been considered excess baggage. Hinchcliffe was always a doubt anyway because of the thigh injury he picked up in training last week.

For Gascoigne the news will have come as a bitter disappointment. England's lachrymose hero of Italia 90 had been so desperate to make up for time lost to injuries and shake off the bibulous image the headline writers had given him.

Hoddle has made a choice both brave and logical. Gascoigne cannot deny that he has been given every chance to prove his match fitness. Hoddle's decision, moreover, has been taken solely on the grounds of football and fitness issues. Late nights and kebabs, it will be emphasised today, have not come into it.

The reality is that Gascoigne was always going to struggle to make the squad after such a long period of inactivity at Rangers before he signed for Middlesbrough. And once he started playing regularly one did not have to be an expert to see that he was struggling to keep up.

Clearly the one-and-a-half matches Hoddle gave Gascoigne against Morocco and Belgium in Casablanca in 48 hours last week finally convinced the England coach that taking Gazza to France would be too much of a risk.

As late as Friday night Hoddle was still talking enthusiastically about Gascoigne's skills while consistently adding the rider that "he has to be 100 per cent fit". After taking a day to consider the implications of taking Gascoigne to the World Cup the England coach reached the conclusion that Gazza had run out of the time he needed to prove that he would not run out of breath.

Gascoigne's presence in the qualifiers, especially against Italy in Rome, was far from wasted but he was only valuable in a limited role which did not make too many demands on his stamina. None of England's principal rivals — Brazil, Germany, Italy, Argentina, Spain, Holland and France — would consider including a player in Gascoigne's present condition in a World Cup squad.

Gascoigne's absence throws a whole new light on what Hoddle is planning to do in the problem area of England's midfield. Paul Ince and David Batty were always going to be in as defensive props in front of the back three.

Now, for inventiveness and imagination, England have the choice of Paul Scholes, a likely alternative to Gascoigne, the revived Darren Anderton, McManaman with his ability to float and take on defenders for pace, plus Merson's speed and shooting power. Michael Owen will be particularly pleased that McManaman, his Liverpool team-mate and an astute reader of his attacking runs, has survived the cut.

Robert Lee's international service has been preferred to Butt's ability to link up naturally with his Manchester United colleagues Scholes, David Beckham and Gary Neville. Hoddle has balanced the mixture of youth and experience rather nicely.

Confirmation of Hoddle's 22 for France may quell rising doubts about his tactics and strategy for this World Cup. The fact that his choice was less predictable than most envisaged suggests Hoddle will retain an open mind in the matter of team selection and tactics.

Nevertheless doubts will persist. Impressive though England were in Rome last October, when Hoddle's team played with patience, discipline and no little skill to hold Italy to 0-0 and assure themselves of a place among the finalists, their performances in the warm-up games have been less convincing.

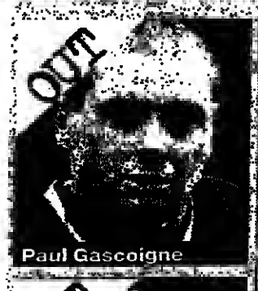
Such pessimism is surely premature. The team who play against Tunisia will bear very little resemblance, for example, to the oddly assorted sides Hoddle fielded in Casablanca. There he was merely looking at spare parts and making up his mind about Gascoigne.

In Marseille Hoddle will almost certainly pick the bulk of the players who qualified in Rome, except that Shearer will lead the attack instead of Wright and now there will be somebody else in place of Gascoigne. The only other change might see Gary Neville replacing Gareth Southgate or Sol Campbell in defence, but it is nice to have available Rio Ferdinand's comfort in possession when bringing the ball out from the back.

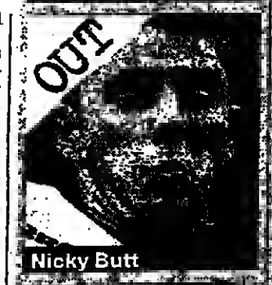
Above all Hoddle's squad confirms the strength England enjoy between the posts at one end and in front of goal at the other. Few nations have a goalkeeper as reliable as David Seaman and a striker of Shearer's quality.

England, moreover, should continue to prove a very difficult team to beat. It is just that when the time comes to take off the overalls and don evening dress Hoddle's midfield will need to learn quickly how to put on a bow tie. At least, now Gascoigne has gone, it will be in less danger of wearing a red nose.

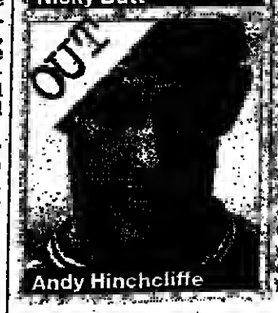
World Cup news, pages 14 and 15



Paul Gascoigne



Nicky Butt



Andy Hinchcliffe

Goalkeepers

David Seaman age 34 (caps 40), Arsenal. As important to England's World Cup hopes now as in Gordon Banks and Peter Shilton's past tournaments. He will lot rests on Seaman's form and fitness.

Tim Flowers 31 (11), Blackburn Rovers. A steady return to form has made him an acceptable alternative should Seaman be forced out by injury at some stage. But he still has lapses.

Nigel Martyn 31 (7), Leeds United. Is good enough to be considered equal second choice with Flowers. In terms of judgment, moreover, he could claim to be the more reliable.

Defence

Sol Campbell 23 (16), Tottenham Hotspur. Outstanding in Rome, Campbell now form's part of the bedrock of England's defence. But at this level his indifferent passing could be a handicap.

Tony Adams 31 (51), Arsenal. The most natural leader England have got, even if he will not be wearing the captain's armband unless Alan Shearer is absent. Much rests on his authority at the back.

Martin Keown 31 (18), Arsenal. Will be challenging for one of the positions in the back three through his ability to get tight on opponents and rescue dangerous situations.

Gareth Southgate 27 (25), Aston Villa. The most natural component of Glenn Hoddle's three-man defence. Southgate is also the man most likely to step out from the back and use the ball well.

Gary Neville 23 (27), Manchester United. Another who may come into the back three at any time. Neville is an intelligent defender let down by the occasional rash tackle which brings a yellow card.

Graeme Le Saux 29 (25), Chelsea. Le Saux's pace on the left and his strong left foot will turn defences and provide the sort of crosses Alan Shearer needs. But someone will have to cover his back.

Rio Ferdinand 19 (3), West Ham. The most surprising inclusion but in on merit as the only genuine English sweeper in the Premiership. He will give England an important option at the back.

Midfield

Darren Anderton 26 (18), Tottenham Hotspur. The renaissance man could be England's unexpected bonus. At his best Anderton both turns defences for centres and cuts inside for shots on goal.

David Beckham 23 (15), Manchester United. England's best crosser of the ball and the man most likely to give Shearer the service he requires. Beckham can also operate in central midfield.

Robert Lee 32 (17), Newcastle United. A faithful standby for Hoddle throughout the qualifiers, Lee's international experience could be useful if others are injured or suspended.

Paul Ince 30 (39), Liverpool. Crucial as the fulcrum of the side, both as anchorman and the driving force when England attack on the break. But only discipline, and luck, will spare him yellow cards.

David Batty 29 (31), Newcastle United. England need the Batty who produced performances of restraint and good judgment in Georgia and Italy, not the red card waiting to happen in the Premiership.

Paul Scholes 23 (7), Manchester United. The alternative to Gascoigne, Scholes's ability to attack and defend in equal measure, plus his goalscoring ability, may be crucial.

Steve McManaman 26 (21), Liverpool. Hoddle's non-conformist may become more important the further England progress. McManaman's speed, skill and stamina could worry tiring opposition.

Paul Merson 30 (18), Middlesbrough. The less likely of the two Middlesbrough players to survive, Merson's ability to expose defences with shrewd passes and score with sudden, powerful shots makes him an important back-up.

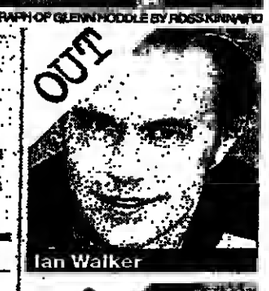
Strikers

Alan Shearer 27 (39), Newcastle United. A lot, perhaps too much, will depend on Shearer reproducing his form of Euro 96. He will be heavily marked, and it is essential that he keeps his cool.

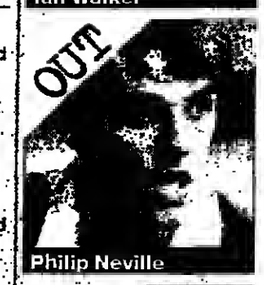
Teddy Sheringham 32 (33), Manchester United. Hoddle is confident Sheringham can reach his best form for England after finishing the Premiership season below par. Others are not so sure.

Michael Owen 18 (5), Liverpool. A body of opinion trusts that Owen's pace and scoring power will be unleashed on the World Cup sooner rather than later. But he may have to be patient.

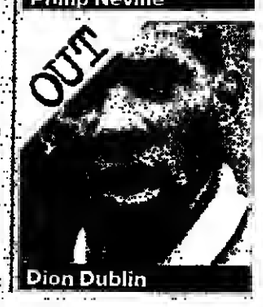
Les Ferdinand 31 (17), Tottenham Hotspur. Ian Wright's withdrawal has given Ferdinand his chance and England the option of using his speed and jumping power. But he still remains a long shot.



Ian Walker



Philip Neville



Dion Dublin

France 98: World Cup countdown

Germany 3 Colombia 1

Spies of England see Colombians fold under duress

Nicholas Harling in Frankfurt

IF ENGLAND go into their last Group G game requiring a victory over Colombia to reach the knockout stages of the World Cup finals, they need not, on Saturday's evidence, have any sleepless nights. Or resort to spoon-benders or faith-healers. That is the message likely to be conveyed to Glenn Hoddle by John Gorman and Gleon Roeder.

The English pair, members of Hoddle's coaching staff, were among the crowd of 50,000 which saw Germany threaten a rout of the South Americans in the Waldstadion before settling for a 3-1 win. A wider margin would surely have shattered Colombia's dwindling confidence.

Unlike Hoddle, who has used 27 players in England's past three games, Hernan Gomez had placed his faith in a tried but seemingly none-too-trustworthy line-up. The Colombia coach changed only his goalkeeper from the side that had drawn 2-2 with Scotland a week earlier but, if their mistakes here were anything to go by, experience counted for little.

Not a minute had elapsed when the defender Jorge Bermudez set the tone for things to come by making a dreadful hasb of clearing Thomas Hässler's cross. Needing no further invitation, Oliver Bierhoff swivelled to smash a vicious shot past Farid Mondragon.

When, moments later, another Colombian error let in Bierhoff again for an effort that reared off Mondragon's midriff, Gorman and Roeder must have been rolling in the aisles at what happened next. In his desperation to seize the loose ball, Mondragon hurtled straight into the legs of his team-mate Wilmer Cabrera. It was hilarious as long as you were not Cabrera, who needed treatment before he could carry on.

Bierhoff, whose goal won the European Championship at Wembley in 1996, profited again from further indecision in the visiting defence. As Hässler's drive came back off an upright, Bierhoff slammed in the rebound.

"We were very dynamic in the opening 25 minutes," said Bierhoff. "By putting Colombia under constant pressure we created multiple chances."

That pressure would not have gone unnoticed by the English observers. Colombia are lovely to watch when they can play their languid, strolling game, with Carlos Valderrama, orange mop of hair blowing in the breeze, orchestrating. But under relentless pressure they wilt, largely because Valderrama no longer has the wit to shake off his most ardent pursuers.

"We didn't concentrate enough," said Gomez, but his team's problems go far deeper than that. Can he afford to persevere with Valderrama, who at 36 is almost a liability? The midfielder is virtually a spent force who has taken the easy option in the twilight of his career by electing to play for Miami Fusion. The case for and against him is akin to England's with Paul Gascoigne: two flamboyant playmakers, they are arguably almost too played out to serve their countries for 90 minutes.

Colombia looked vulnerable, and not only when Valderrama and the 31-year-old Freddy Rincon were being harried out of possession. They were also susceptible to the early cross, another point remarked upon by Bierhoff, whose goals both followed such balls from Hässler and Stefan Reuter. When the scorer turned creator to send in Andreas Möller for the third German goal a minute into the second half, he had clearly accomplished enough to merit a rest.

His replacement was Jürgen Klinsmann, and Colombia, finding the former Spurs striker a good deal easier to contain, set about exposing the German defence, in which Jürgen Kohler was earning his 100th cap. Harold Lozano struck a post, and with his customary overhead kick Faustino Asprilla forced a smart save from Andreas Köpke. Valderrama eventually slotted home a penalty but Gomez was kidding himself — and maybe England — when he said: "When you don't take your chances it's your downfall." It's the other end he should be looking at.

GERMANY (4-1-3-2): Köpke; Thon, Wörns, Kohler, Ziege; Jeremies (Matthäus, 70min); Reuter, Hässler (Hamann, 46), Möller; Bierhoff (Klinsmann, 70), Marschall (Kirsten, 70).
COLOMBIA (4-2-2-2): Mondragon; Cabrera, Bermudez (Palacios, 52), Córdoba, Santa; Serna, Lozano; Valderrama, Rincon (Ricard, 58); Valencia (Aristizabal, 52), Asprilla.
Referee: A Ouzounov (Bulgaria).

Early opener . . . Bierhoff scores his first THOMAS KIENZLE

Hanging in there . . . the Scotland midfielder John Collins and Joe-Max Moore dispute possession PHOTOGRAPH: AUBREY WASHINGTON

United States 0 Scotland 0

Scots cool, calm and collective

Patrick Glenn in Washington

DRAWING conclusions from friendlies may prove to be about as reliable as reading tea-leaves, but Scotland's trip to America has helped dispel much of the pessimism that was felt in the wake of the World Cup draw.

Any eulogising of their performances in drawing both their matches, against Colombia and now the United States, would have to be tempered by questioning the strength of the opposition. Neither of the teams from the Americas looked likely conquerors when France is invaded in the coming weeks. But they had advantages in climate and support in New Jersey and Washington respectively, yet the Scots played well enough and contrived enough chances to have beaten both.

The underlying trend in Craig Brown's team, towards coherence and fluency from defence through to attack, has caused a few observers to sense a growing belief that qualification from a World Cup group that includes Brazil, Norway and Morocco can be achieved.

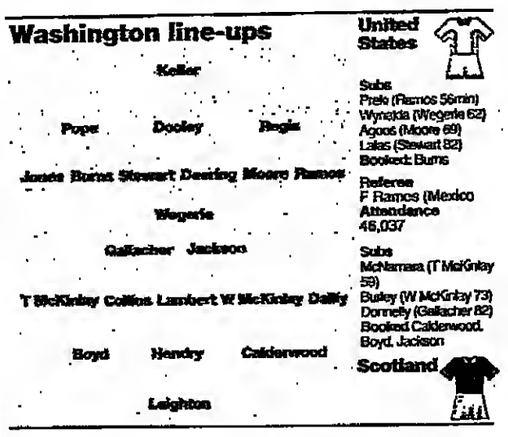
This view was reinforced by Tom King, director of administration of the US Soccer Federation, after Saturday's draw in the almost intolerable heat and humidity of the RFK Stadium. It was perhaps traditional American hyperbole but he told Brown: "You can beat Brazil. You gave us a much more awkward game than they did" — a reference to the US's 1-0 victory over the world champions in the Gold Cup this year.

Claudio Reyna, one of the US's more influential players, had withdrawn minutes before the kick-off after injuring a hamstring in the preliminaries but was equally enthusiastic about the Scots' prospects in Paris on Wednesday week.

"We beat Brazil and, from what I've seen here, Scotland could do the same thing," he said. "There is certainly no reason why you should have any fear of them."

Whatever other trepidations Scotland may have, the most significant one that some of the players are shedding is their dread of receiving the ball. The improvement in service between defenders such as Colin Hendry, Colin Calderwood and Tom Boyd and the midfielders John Collins and Paul Lambert has been noticeable.

Washington line-ups



United States

Subs
Preki (Ramos 56min)
Wynalda (Wegerle 62)
Agoos (Moore 69)
Lalas (Stewart 82)
Booked: Burns

Referee
F Ramos (Mexico)
Attendance
46,037

Subs
McNamara (T McKinlay 59)
Bailey (W McKinlay 73)
Donnelly (Gallacher 82)
Booked Calderwood, Boyd, Jackson

Scotland

It has not come about by accident. Since joining Monaco from Celtic two years ago, Collins has developed a more assertive personality and begun helping Brown to issue precise instructions to the defenders in an attempt to minimise long, aimless clearances.

"We have a footballing midfield," said Collins, "but there is no point in the likes of Paul Lambert and myself being there if we aren't given the ball to our feet. I've been telling the defenders not to take the easy way out by lumping the ball up the park but to use it constructively. There has been real improvement in these matches and there were times in the match today when we held possession for a long time.

"It could still be better, but the manager will keep on about it and so will Lambert and myself, and they'll keep improving."

Lambert's experience as a European Cup winner with Borussia Dortmund has made him one of the most formidable forces at Brown's disposal and his performance against the US was characteristically composed and intelligent.

"Holding the ball, playing it around and being comfortable with it is the only way to go at this level," said Lambert. "All the top teams play like that. Many of the Scottish sides still rush it forward but if you want to compete with the cream that has to change.

"The national side is leading the way and people, hopefully, will look at it and realise it's how it should be done. It's the best chance we have and I'm very pleased about the progress that's been made.

"The trip has been really worthwhile; the players have been worked hard and they've responded well to difficult situations. I've never known heat like we had today and I hope never to know it again. But, after taking a little time to adjust to the conditions, we played well and finished strongly.

"A lot of us have taken much satisfaction out of our work here and I'm sure we'll be spot-on for France. Craig is very good at bringing a group of players to the boil at just the right time."

After Roy Wegerle had hit Jim Leighton's crossbar with a close-range drive in the first half, the normally reliable Kevin Gallacher squandered two outstanding chances to secure victory for Scotland. Given his stomach bug earlier in the week, perhaps he can be allowed the lapses. In any case, as Brown said, "I'd rather he miss them in the friendly and score two against Brazil in the real thing."

Chunker . . . Preki is restrained by Lambert NICK WASS

If it's in the game, it's in....

Every day the Guardian International carries comprehensive sports coverage, but look out for the dedicated sport supplement on Friday – Sport98 – packed with everything you need to know. On Monday there is a full round-up of the weekend's sport written by the Guardian's award-winning journalists. If you're looking for the best sports coverage, join the team.

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Chile 3 Tunisia 2

Deadly Salas helps sink Tunisia

TUNISIA were beaten by Chile yesterday in Montelimar in France but showed they will be no pushovers for England when the teams face each other in the first Group G match a fortnight today.

The North Africans twice took the lead against their highly fancied opponents and Chile only secured victory with two late goals.

Hatem Trabelsi breached Chile's defence first, something England failed to do when they lost to the South Americans at Wembley in February, and Adel Sellimi added Tunisia's second goal.

Marcelo Salas, whose double had accounted for Glenn Hoddle's team, equalised the opening goal. The playmaker Jose Luis Sierra, whose through-pass at Wembley had set up Salas's superb first goal against England, levelled matters again in the 84th minute.

Ivan Zamarano hit the winner three minutes from the end but there was still time for their defender Javier Margas to be sent off.

Mexico's Antonio Carbajal is about to lose his place in World Cup history. The former Mexico goalkeeper etched his name in the record books for doing something Pele, Diego Maradona and Michel Platini could not: making five World Cup appearances.

It earned him the nickname "Cinco Copas" or "Five Cups". But Germany's Lothar Matthäus is about to tie Carbajal's record when the 37-year-old midfielder plays in his fifth World Cup finals in France, after injury sidelined the first-choice sweeper Matthias Sammer.

"I hope he doesn't get to play," joked Carbajal, 69, from his home in Leon. "No, seriously, all honour to those who deserve it. Besides, it's an honour for me that the person who ties my record is someone like Matthäus, because he is a great player.

"But I'm not underestimating myself. He's going to tie *my* record. Besides, it took 32 years to do that and I imagine it will take another long time for a third person to do it."

Carbajal, who wore dark shirts in goal and dislikes today's brightly coloured outfits, first appeared in the World Cup in Brazil in 1950. He followed that up by playing in Switzerland (1954), Sweden (1958), Chile (1962) and England (1966).

● Real Madrid have had their £123,000 fine for crowd trouble at last month's European Cup semi-final with Borussia Dortmund halved. But a £413,000 penalty for letting in too many fans at the Bernabeu stays, a decision described by the club's president Lorenzo Sanz as "unjust and arbitrary".

هكذا من الاصل

France 98 Aces and wild cards

Brazil haunted by glorious past

In the first of a daily series on the World Cup groups, **Michael Walker** uncovers deep-rooted dissension in the favourites' camp

OF ALL the managers and coaching staff making their way over to France, one alone — Mario Jorge Lubo Zagallo — should have travelled without anxiety. Set aside the fact that his Brazil squad is rightly regarded as the most talented, and begin as World Cup favourites, Zagallo should have been able to surf in from Rio on a giant, frothing wave of personal respect.

After all, this is the only man strolling the globe who has collected the World Cup trophy four times. Not even Pele, his compatriot and playing colleague in 1958 and 1962, can boast such success. In 1970, when Pele was winning his third Jules Rimet, Zagallo was his manager, and four years ago in America Zagallo claimed a quartet of golden trophies as assistant to one of his best friends in football, Carlos Parreira.

One simple if astonishing truth is that Brazil have never won the World Cup without the involvement of Zagallo. It is hardly aurprising theo that the 66-year-old should say: "Copa do Mundo — it is in my blood."

Yet the tournament is also in the blood of Brazil's other 150 million residents and that exerts its own pressure. Adding to it lately, however, have been three of the country's foremost footballing citizens, who have publicly questioned Zagallo's methods and his mentality. Unfortunately for Zagallo, the views of Carlos Alberto, Gerson and Tostao cannot be dismissed lightly. These three are pillars of the greatest national side of the century — 1970 Brazil — and when Carlos Alberto accuses Zagallo of "betraying everything Brazil are famous for", people ootice.

Carlos Alberto was actually referring to the football played by Brazil in USA 94, but the 1970 captain expects oo better this time around. "What you will see in France is not real Brazilian football. We have some wonderful players but Zagallo will oot let them improvise. He has no right to manage the national team."

As if that was not enough, Carlos Alberto says Zagallo should not be giveo any credit for the 1970 triumph as he was only installed as manager three months before the World Cup began. Brazil was a military dictatorship then and Zagallo's appointmeot was widely seen as political.

That may be the prevailing perception now but it ignores Zagallo's rising coaching reputation at the time. He was the young and successful manager of Botafogo then and three of that team, Gerson, Jairzinho and Paulo Cesar, featured prominently in the 1970 Brazil side. Whatever the scale of Zagallo's influence, it did oot appear to inhibit Brazil's heartwarming and medal-winning lyricism. However, throughout his career, critics have charged him with a preference for pragmatism over glory.

Such opponents may be prestigious but the arguments have raged for decades and Zagallo can do little but offer an explanation he uses frequently. "Football has changed," be contests. "Today there are not only more people behind the ball, most people are behind the ball. Gerson must understand that this is not 1970.

"Football is changing and not always for the better. There is much less space in which footballers can express their ability. At the 94 World Cup Colombia and Argentina tried to turn the clock back and play a happier, free flowing game but without much success. They reminded me of 1982 when Brazil were voted the best 'pure football' team of the tournament. But Brazil forgot to play to win and were knocked out in the second round, unlike in 1994 when Brazil did not put on s show but did play to win."

It is this last seotence which captures Zagallo's philosophy of winning before entertaining, the belief that so enrages the purists. It is an approach to football which saw him earn the nickname "Little Ant" as a player. A left-winger in the Botafogo team of Garrincha and Didi, Zagallo was the first winger in Brazil to "work back", or even think of it, and he is still remembered for a goal-line clearance in the 1958 final because no Brazilian had ever witoessed a winger defending before.

That defensive inclination — based oo his personal reasoning that he needed to work harder to justify being chosen in front of more gifted individuals — saw Zagallo omit Zico from the 1974 World Cup squad, a competitioo which resulted in fresh abuse for the manager owing to Brazil's alarmingly destructive tactics.

Like it or not, Zagallo has Zico by his side now — he was appointed by the Brazilian football authorities concerned by Zagallo's negativity and his use of 117 players since 1994 — and the relationship between the two has come under scrutiny. But if there is tension it has not stopped Zagallo sending his grandsoo to Zico's football academy and the two men appear to share a lack of wholehearted faith in Romario.

In the run up to USA 94, when Zagallo was assistant coach, Romario played in only the last qualifying match — ba scored the two goals that beat Uruguay in a game Brazil had to win — and the fuss surrounding Romario this weekend has seen Zico offer less than enthusiastic reassurances about the striker's fitness. "It's a worrying situation," said Zico, "but I'm not the only one with a voice."

Romario, Zagallo and Zico have had very public differences in the past, with Romario once referring to Zico as "a loser", but they are stressing the importance of harmooy just now. Romario could hardly have said the same about Zagallo, the ultimate winner, even if last week he showed a softer side when relecting on Juninho.

"If I'd let my heart decide then he would be here," Zagallo said in Paris, "but emotion cannot be allowed to overcome reason."

Yet in other areas of his life Zagallo allows exactly that. He is notoriously superstitious and since marrying his wife on June 13 has let the number 13 dictate his movements somewhat.

He lives on the 13th floor of a Rio apartment block, has 13 on his car's licence plate, and always wears the No.13 shirt in training. It cannot have escaped his notice, therefore, that the World Cup final ... is on July 12.

Additional reporting by Leonardo Rocha

Broad shoulders ... the fitness of Romario has become a political problem for Mario Zagallo, below PAULO WHITAKER

MARK THOMPSON

Group A form guide

Brazil
Odds 11-4 favourites
Last five matches (most recent first) Argentina L1-0; Germany W2-1; Jamaica W1-0; United States L1-0; El Salvador W4-0
Group schedule Scotland, June 10; Morocco, June 16; Norway, June 23

Scotland cannot say they were not warned. It is almost a month since Mario Zagallo named not only his squad for France but the 11 he wants to start the first game. Thus Craig Brown has been able to go to sleep knowing his defence will face Romario and Ronaldo but not the emotional Edmundo, who is on the bench. There is no starting place either for the brilliant winger Denilson, the 20-year-old who joins Real Betis for £20 million after the finals.

Otherwise the line-up is fairly uncontroversial, although Brazil will want to see more flair from a more gifted squad than four years ago. The Barcelona pairing, Giovanni and Rivaldo, will prompt from midfield as Brazil set out to achieve a first World Cup triumph on European soil since 1958.

Scotland
Odds 150-1
Last five matches United States D0-0, Colombia D2-2; Finland 01-1, Denmark L1-0; France L2-1
Group schedule Brazil, June 10, Norway, June 16; Morocco, June 23

Much, much better Scottish squads than this one assembled by Craig Brown have failed to make it to the knock-ont section in all of their seven previous visits to the finals. However, the tight-fisted defending that saw only three goals conceded in thefr 10 qualifying matches returned against the United States — as did the familiar dryness at the other end.

With no Duncan Ferguson or Ally McCoist to put the ball in and no Gary McAllister in midfield, Brown's major worries are creativity and who will be his goalscorer. Step forward Kevin Gallacher, scorer of the crucial first against Latvia in the game which meant Scotland qualified as best runners up. John Collins and Paul Lambert should ensure Gallacher at least gets tha odd chance.

Norway
Odds 25-1
Last five Saudi Arabia W6-0; Mexico W5-2; Denmark W2-0; Belgium D2-2; France D3-3
Group schedule Morocco, June 10; Scotland, June 16; Brazil, June 23

Imagine the uncontrollable optimism if England's score against Saudi Arabia had been 6-0 — which Norway's was four days after the Saudis almost left Wembley with a win — or had Scotland, on their last meeting with Brazil, put four past the world champions — which Norway did last May.

In eight qualifiers they averaged more than 2.5 goals a game and did not lose any, with Chelsea's Tore Andre Flo and Manchester United's Ole Gunnar Solskjaer prominent on the score sheet. Liverpool's Oyvind Leonhardsen and Petter Rudi of Sheffield Wednesday should feature in midfield and the Old Trafford pairing of Henning Berg and Ronny Johnsen in defence. With other players coming from Italy, Spain and Germany, Norway should be too strong for Morocco and Scotland — and maybe even Brazil.

Morocco
Odds 300-1
Last five France D2-2; England L1-0; Belgium L2-1; South Africa L2-1; Egypt W1-0
Group schedule Norway, June 10; Brazil, June 16; Scotland, June 23

As they showed in their friendlies against England and France, Morocco are far from the William Hagues of Group A. They possess the colour and personality to upset the Europeans in the group at least — something they have done before: in Mexico in 1986 Morocco finished top of their first-round group ahead of England, Poland and Portugal.

There is a chance all 12 first choices against Norway on Wednesday week will be with clubs abroad, including a trio from Deportivo La Coruna in Spain. Of these the 26-year-old attacking midfielder Mustapha Hadji — missing against England — is the most exciting and, if he can link up frequently with his club mate Salaheddine Bassir, the likes of Heiming Berg and Colin Hendry are in for sticky evenings in Montpellier and Saint-Etienne.

Radebe and Fish named at back for South Africa

THREE Eogland-based players have haan named in South Africa's World Cup squad. The centre-hacks Lucas Radaha and Mark Fish, of Leeds United and Bolton respectively, and the Fulham goalkeeper Andre Arendse were named by the coach Philippe Troussiar yesterday.

Eight othar players are with European clubs, including the former Leeds striker Phil Masinga, now with Bari in Italy.

Troussier's squad lacks defensive midfielders after John Moeti and Barnsley's Eric Tinkler were ruled out through injury. The coach said: "I know we will be weak there but I have concentrated on the strong points of the team. I think I have 14 key players and the rest will provide good cover."

Only 12 players survive from the African Nations Cup finals in Burkina Faso four months ago, when South Africa finished runners-up. Troussier took over as coach after that tournament.

Four playara, however, remain from the team's first international six years ago: Radebe, the captain, the defender David Nyathi, the midfielder Doctor Khumalo and Masinga, the country's top scorer with 14 goals.

Riahi Redar and Ahmed Bahja were surprise omissions when the Morocco coach Henri Michel named his squad.

Redar, a lively forward who has been in prolific form for Raja Casablanca, had been struggling for fitness but was expected to be included. He cama on as s substitute in the 1-0 defeat by England last Wednesday. Bahja, a striker in good form with Ittihad Quatar, was also expected to be in tha party but he clashed with Michel over disciplinary issues this year.

The veteran striker Enzo Scifo was named in Belgium's squad but there was no room for the dafander Philippe Leonard, the striker Michael Goossens and the midfielder Gert Claessens.

Leonard'a exclusion was the biggest surprise. He played in Belgium's 1-0 defeat by France on Wednesday but was dropped for Friday's 0-0 draw with England. The inclusion of ths 32-ysar-old Scifo confirms that he and the coach Georges Leekens have buried their differences.

The Anderlecht player went into self-imposed exile from the international scene in February after being left out for a friendly. He and the 37-year-old captain Franky Van der Elst are on their way to their fourth World Cup finals.

Up front, Standard Liege's exciting 19-year-old striker Lokonda "Emile" Mpenza has been included alongside his 21-year-old brother and club-mate Mbo.

The Roma striker Abel Balbo flew to Buenos Aires at the weekend after a surprise call-np by the Argentina coach Daniel Passarella. His inclusion left Claudio Caniggia, a Cup campaigner in 1990 and 1994, out in the cold.

Balbo, 32 today, is a prolific scorer but his selection is a surprise, coming only days after an Italian court gave him an eight-month suspeoded ssntence for tax evasion.

Squads

SOUTH AFRICA: Goalkeepers: Vonk, Baloyi, Arendse. **Defenders:** Mnguni, Nyathi, Jackson, Fish, Radebe, Issa. **Midfielders:** Fortuna, Phiri, Moshoeu, Mkhalele, Augustine, Buckley, Khumalo, Morala, Mokoena. **Forwards:** Masinga, Bartlett, Sikhosana, McCarthy.

MOROCCO: Goalkeepers: Srazi, Benzekri, Chadli. **Defenders:** Rossi, Trik, Naybet, El Hadrioui, Nekrouz, Saber, Abrami. **Midfielders:** Chiba, Azzouzi, Chippo, Hadji, El Khalej, Sellami. **Forwards:** Bassir, Hadda, El Khattabi, Ouakili, Amzine, Rokki.

BELGIUM: Goalkeepers: De Wilde, Verlinden, Van de Walle. **Defenders:** Borkelmans, Oeffendre, Staelens, Crasson, Vidovic, Van Meir, De Boeck, Verstraeten. **Midfielders:** Boffin, Van der Elst, Van Kerckhoven, Wilmots, Clement, Scifo. **Forwards:** L Mpenza, M Mpenza, Nilis, Oliveira, Verheyen.

ARGENTINA: Goalkeepers: Ros, Burgos, Cavallero. **Defenders:** Sensini, Ayala, Zanetti, Chamot, Paz, Vivas, Pineda. **Midfielders:** Simeone, Almeyda, Veron, Astrada, Gallardo, Berti, Ortega. **Forwards:** Batistuta, Lopez, Delgado, Crespo, Balbo.

Body blow for Maldini and the Azzurri

Calf injury robs the Italians of top goalkeeper Peruzzi

Paddy Agnew in Rome

ITALY yesterday experienced the first serious setback of their World Cup preparations when the first-choice goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi was forced ont of France 98 with a badly torn calf muscle.

The Jnventus goalkeeper was injured while taking part in a light training session before the squad's departure for Gothenhnrg, whare they will face Sweden ln a friendly tomorrow.

At first glance the loss might seem serious but the man who will replace Peruzzi, Gianlnca Paglinca of Internazionale, is not only a highly experienced player hnt also in stnpendona form.

Pagliuca, who has won 34 caps, knows all about the pressure of a World Cup finals, because he was in goal for most of Italy's run to ths 1994 final where they lost to Brazil on penalties.

Many Italian foothall commentators rate him a better goalkeeper than Peruzzi and there are many other pundits who believe that his demotion from tha national team in the build-np to Euro 96 owed more to his differences of opinion with the then coach Arrigo Sacchi than to any losa of form.

Sacchi, it is understood, took particular exception to a full and frank interview given by Pagliuca to an Italian weekly magazine, in which he spoke st great length sbout sex.

Pagliuca, who had to wait for the arrival of Cesare Maldini as national coach in December 1996 before heing recalled to the squad, recently expressed his delight at being back in the fold and added that, even after four years, the memory of playing on the losing side in a World Cup final still hurt.

If anything shonld go wrong for Pagliuca then Maldini can still rest easy, for both the new No. 2 and No. 3, Gianluigi Buffon of Parma and Francesco Toldo of Fiorentina, have had some international experience as well as being thoronghly experienced in the demands of Serie A.

Buffon made his league debut as a 17-year-old against Milan three seasons ago, keeping a clean sheet with a memorable performance in a 1-0 win.

Peruzzi ... torn muscle

More recently he made his international dehnt in drsmatic circnmstances, replacing the injured Paglinca dnring Italy's 1-1 draw in the World Cup play-off with Russia last November.

In windy, sub-zero conditions and on a snow-covered Moscow pitch Buffon held his nerve admirahly and immediately booked his passage to France.

Toldo, also long established in Serie A, made a similar debut two years earlier, replacing Lnca Marchegiani during a 1-1 draw in European Championship qualifying against Croatia in Split.

Romario declares himself fit and ready to play against Scotland in World Cup opener

SCOTLAND may have to cope with Romario as well as Ronaldo when they play Brazil in the first match of the World Cup finals on Wednesday week at the Stade de France.

Romario declared himself fit for the game after recovering from a calf injury. "I have faith in God that I will be available for the coach to pick me if be wants," he said. "I can't guarantee that I will be 100 per cent match-fit by then but I will be fit enough to play."

He has been unable to train since the squad assembled earlier this month and the Brazilian media claimed that he had fallen out with the team's assistant coach Zico.

But Romario, a World Cup winner in 1994, denied reports that Zico had told him be would be dropped if be did oot train normally by tomorrow, Fifa's deadlioe for squad changes.

"Whoever says this is lying," said Romario. "These are just rumours. My relationship with him is as good as can be. I don't have to prove anything. I'm not worried about this. In any case, i'm virtually cured. I'm not feeling pain any more.

"The thought of missing the World Cup has never entered my bead. By Wednesday or Thursday I should be able to train normally again."

Brazil have already dropped the defender Marcio Santos and the midfielder Flavio Conceicao from the squad after it was decided that they would not recover from injury in time for the finals.

Both players contested the decisions. In fact Conceicao played a full match and scored for his club Deportivo Coruña two days after being dropped.

Ajax midfielder fancies Premiership test

De Boer steps up his push towards Highbury

RONALD da Boer has stepped up his attempts to link with his former Ajax team-mates Dennis Bergkamp and Marc Overmars at Arsenal.

"I know Arsenal are very interested in me and I would love to play for them," said the 28-year-old Holland midfielder, who is under contract to the Dutch champions until 2004.

"There are few clubs that really fit into how I want to play, but Arsenal is one of them. I will be reassured only once Ajax and Arsenal have made up their minds."

Tottenham are set to sign Knut Reinhardt from Borussia Dortmund. The left-sided defender, who was in the squad when Dortmund won the 1997 European Cup, is understood to have an escape clause in his contract and can leave for a set fee.

Reinhardt watched Spurs' last game of the season, a 1-1 home draw with Southampton, and has since begun discussing personal terms at White Hart Lane.

Blackburn will this morning complete the signing of Southampton's Kevin Davies for s club-record £7.25 million, Britain's third most expensive deal involving domestic players. Ooly Alan Sbearer, £15 millioo from Blackburn to Newcastle, and Stan Collymore, £8.5 million from Nottingham Forest to Liverpool, have cost more.

The England Under-21 international is understood to have a seven-year deal worth £20,000 a week. He leaves Southampton only 12 months, 20 full games and 12 goals after becoming the former manager Graeme Souness's last signing for Saints, for a knock-down £700,000 from Chesterfield.

Davies, now 21, became the youngest playar to appear in the Coca-Cola Cup when he came on for Chesterfield against West Ham in September 1993, aged 16 years and 180 days, and last season was shortlisted for the PFA Young Player of the Year award.

Southampton turned down so initial approsch from Blackburn but found the next offer too good to refuse. All the proceeds have heen pledged to the manager David Jones for team strengthening.

His £3.5 million bid for Crystal Palace's Matt Jansen has been rejected, however, hut the 30-year-old David Howells of Spurs and Newcastle'a Darren Peacock, also 30, have been lined up on free transfers.

The South Coast club are also having talks to bring Carmina Esposito, who scored 14 goals for Empoli last season, over from Serie A for sbout £3 million.

Birminghsm's chairman David Gold is hoping Steve Bruce will decide to stay at St Andrews even thoogh Gold has given the captain permission to talk to Norwich City about the managerial vacancy at Carrow Road. Bruce, 37, has recently signed a 12-month cootract with Birmingham and Gold is keen for him to lead the team.

"I don't want to lose him and oeither does anyone else connected with Birmingham City," Gold said. "I know that he is desperate to play on for another season and I am sure that he realises that his best chances of reaching the Premiership will be by staying with us."

However, he conceded: "It is a very romantic scenario for Steve, as he became a hig favourite at Norwich and it is an exciting prospect for him to go back as their player-manager."

● Scotland's women heat Lithuania 17-0 in their World Cup qualifier in Glasgow yesterday to force a play-off with the Czech Republic.

Hughes demands his right of free passage from the Bridge

CHELSEA want a fee for Mark Hnghas, even though the Welsb striker is insisting that their player-manager Gianluca Vialli should honour a promise to release hlm on a free transfer.

Although Hughes has a year to run on his contract, he said Vialli had agreed he conld leave Stamford Bridge for nothing if Chelsea bonght Lazio's centre-forward Pierluigi Casiraghi.

The Italian was signed for £5.5 million on Friday but Chelsea's managing director Colln Hntchinson made it clear the clnb were looking for a transfer fee. "We will do what's best for Chelsea football clnb and Mark Hughes," he said.

Hughes countered: "Vialli told me if Casiraghi came I would be given a free transfer. I hope that is still the case, and if it is then it's a great gesture by Luca. I hope he will be as good as his word over this. But Chelsea are now saying any fee would depend on which clnbs come in for me. That's totally out of order."

Hutchinson was in Paris whsre he was holding talks with another Vialli target, Marcel Desailly of Milan and France.

Don Goodman, a key figure in Wolves' run to the FA Cup semi-finals, has joined the Japanese club Sanfrecce Hiroshima. The forward, who was a free agent, has signed a one-year £350,000 deal with the J League side.

The formsr England rugby union coach Jack Rowell has become a director of Reading, who were relegated to the Second Division in May.

Rowell, who accepted an invitation to join the board from the Royals' chairman John Madejski, said: "I've always been very interested in football. The future is exciting, not least with Reading. I think they'll bounce straight back up."

Slogger

A side-on glance at cricket

Haircuts 100

No.2 Heath Streak

Observe, if you will, the stylish brevity of the Zimbabwean's crop, the way no strand of hair goes in the same direction, the flowing freedom of the fringe. All the rage in Bulawayo, apparently.

Loye Potty CMJ Jr Loopy Bailey Nosey Habib Spotty

The Do You Mind XI They all boast unflattering nicknames

Mad Jack	Mal Loye (Northants): triple-hundred maniac
Nose Bag	Rob Bailey (Northants): sizeable hooter
Mad Dog	Tobin Bailey (Northants): Winslot aficionado
Scabby	Aftab Habib (Leics): allergic to Oil of Ulay
Looney	Umer Rashid (Middx): Elmer Fudd fanatic
Dumb	Jason Searle (Durham): short on erudition
Crazy MF	Robin Martin-Jenkins (Sussex): no son of CMJ
Mad Mick	Martin McCague (Kent): Paisley impersonator
Dufus	James Kirtley (Sussex): yen for Bill & Ted movies
Stupid	Jonathan Lewis (Gloucs): non-Mensa member
Binbag	Gary Keedy (Lancs): not obviously handsome

Gratuitous Graphic

The England selectors: what are they really like?

Sixty-four players from the current county circuit have fought for queen and country in a Test. Of these . . .

12 have made a century

12 have taken a five-fer

41 have done neither

29 have been dumped after fewer than five caps

Which makes the England selectors . . .

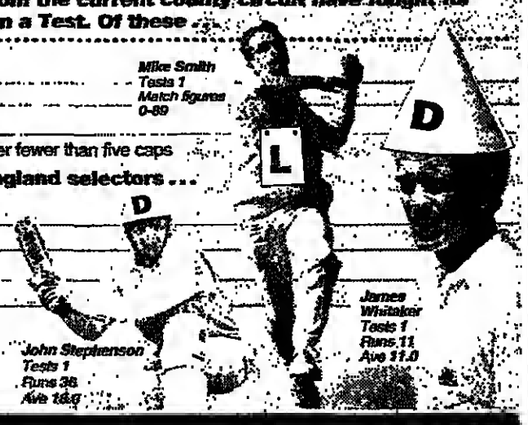
(a) Horribly impatient

(b) Acutely realistic

(c) Far too bloody nice

(d) Cursed

(e) Clueless



Mike Smith Tests 1 Match figures 0-89

James Whitaker Tests 1 Runs 11 Ave 11.0

John Stephenson Tests 1 Runs 36 Ave 18.0

Answers on the customary postcard (marked HQ) please

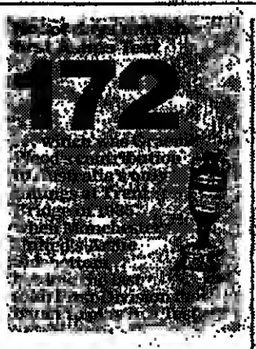
Six steps to **Devon**

Phil Tufnell was reportedly expelled for setting fire to his school in Highgate, once the north London residence of **Mike Brearley** and still home to **Victoria Wood**, not forgetting, in a manner of speaking, **Karl Marx**. Another Karl, **Karl Krikken**, has spent much of his career saving byes from **Devon Malcolm** *(Thanks to Hilda Accrington, of Forest Hill, SE23)*

Each week we will print the most ingenious route from a specified personality to Northamptonshire's ageless pace marvel. Send contributions to the address below. This week's starting-point: **Darren Gough**.

Everything you always wanted to know about (but were too polite to ask) about... Northamptonshire

Key question *How come they've never won the championship?*
Anorak's answer In 1965, when they finished five points short, Keith Andrew dropped off-spinner Sully on a bunsen burner against Worcestershire, who won and took the title.
Claims to fame Hold first-class record for highest second-innings total in England (712 v Glamorgan last week) and lowest total anywhere (12 v Gloucs, 1907); once went 99 championship games without a win (May 14 1935 to May 29 1939); *David Steele*, prematurely-grey maestro, sponsored a leg of lamb per run in 1975 *Ashes* series (final tally 365).
Eeriest factoid In 1936, Alfred "Fred" Bakewell, then averaging 45.44 from six Tests, was involved in a car accident and never played for England again. In 1968, Colin "Ollie" Milburn, then averaging 46.71 from nine Tests, was involved in a car accident and never played for England again.



Highest high Jim Griffiths, then holder of world record for successive ducks, surviving 29 balls, more than a few of them from Michael Holding, to pull off a one-wicket victory over Lancashire in the 1981 Nat West semi-final.
Lowest low Derbyshire's Geoff Miller short-heading Allan Lamb's throw to win the final off the last ball, bowled by Griffiths (below).
Best XI (v Somerset, 1976; won by innings and 86 runs): Virgin, Cook, Steele, Mushtaq (capt), Willey, Larkins, Williams, Sharp (wkt), Sarfraz, Hodgson, Bedi.
Dream XI Bakewell, Milburn, Steele, Brookes, A Lamb, Mushtaq, F Brown (capt), *Andrew (wkt)*, Ambrose, Tyson, Bedi.
Cult hero Albert Lightfoot. Crewe-born and crewcut, this steady middle-order batsman (and later club groundsman) once went five seasons without reaching three figures in the championship. Partnered Raman Subba Row against Surrey when the pair set the county's all-wicket record (obliterated last week by Mal Loye and David Ripley).
Heroic failing Lightfoot is best known for failing to back up for what would have been the winning run against the 1961 Australians. Ruthour has it his namesake Gordon composed the 1971 hit If You Could Read My Mind as a tribute.

Big shout Murmurs from the outfield

"Good fielding, little man" **Alec Stewart** boosts Graham Thorpe's self-esteem in the B&H quarter-final

"The players know I used to box, and that's probably why they don't stuff around with me" **Cyril "Nice One" Mitchley**, the first umpire to be awarded a benefit, reveals why nobody disses him

"I invented most of that stuff" **Nice One** on why he does not give a stuff about over-zealous appealing

If . . .

Gordon Greenidge had accepted Ray Illingworth's *offer to play for England*, Mike Brearley would never have played Test cricket, Brian Close would have succeeded Tony Greig as captain, and Fred Trueman would have given up "commentating" in 1977.

Cheers, mate

Which noted if opaque luminary (right) deemed which colleague with the following extremely faint praise? Post, fax or e-mail your entry to the address below. The first correct entry will win a copy of Pons And Cobbers (André Deutsch), Rob Steen's 1997 Ashes diary. Last week: Boycott on Illingworth

"I was almost in tears. [His] behaviour was something I'd never do to a team-mate, and another lesson. Never belittle a colleague because of his ability or lack of it."

Slogger welcomes contributions. Write to the Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. You can e-mail us at slogger@guardian.co.uk or fax us on 0171-713 4107.

Down but out . . . Vince Wells celebrates catching Michael May off his own bowling PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENCE GRIFFITHS

County Championship: Derbyshire v Leicestershire

Patience pays off for Lewis

Mike Selvey at Queen's Park

THE County Championship still has the appearance of early-season skirmishing about it. Had Derbyshire managed to beat Leicestershire they would have gone second behind Surrey. They did not, bowled out for 217 in their second innings to lose by 38 runs inside three days here in Derby, and in consequence Durham ascended to third, a height that, for a side not acclimatised to grand things, ought to require oxygen.

Yesterday's win was the second of the season for Leicestershire but it was celebrated as if it was the first of the decade. Phil Simmons at slip took the catch to finish the game and whooped with delight before sprinting from the field and vaulting the pavilion gate. A bit worrying, really.

On a bowler-friendly pitch Derbyshire never really had a hope of making 256, the highest score of the match, to win. On Saturday a frenetic second day's play saw 19 wickets fall, including that of Michael Slater in the final session, leaving Derbyshire a further 213 runs to make yesterday with nine wickets and two days in hand.

All Leicestershire had to do was be patient and chip away, though with play starting an hour late they had removed only Adrian Rollins by lunch, his innings of 44 ending when he was smartly caught at slip to give Alan Mullally the first of his four wickets.

Although Vince Wells then enhanced Leicestershire's prospects with two wickets after the interval, a fourth-wicket stand of 81 between Kim Barnett and Michael May gave Derbyshire the semblance of a chance, particularly as James Ormond, their destroyer in the first innings, had limped off with a groin strain.

Barnett's knees had more chemicals in them than Boots and it is a wonder that he is playing at all. Mullally roughed him up a bit with some testing short stuff but he survived, unleashing an evocative square drive, hitting four more boundaries and hooking Mullally into the trees to reach 57 before Chris Lewis called for Matthew Brimson's left-arm spin and gained immediate reward.

Thereafter Derbyshire had no answer. Two more wickets fell to Wells and Mullally without addition. Dominic Cork survived an appeal for a catch at the wicket, and although he hit Brimson straight for six he was caught at slip next ball, leaving Mullally to mop up.

Middlesex v Glamorgan

Powell digs in under the scaffolding to set a teasing target

Paul Weaver at Lord's

IN THE shadow of the scaffolding of the new Grandstand, beneath the embryonic media centre and below the recently restructured Mound Stand, which all indicate that this most grand and stately of cricket grounds is being ushered into a fresh era, a doggedly old-fashioned cricket match is being played.

Middlesex are six for no wicket and today need another 307 from a minimum of 96 overs to beat Glamorgan. It is four years since they scored more than 300 in the fourth innings to win a championship match.

It has been an absorbing match and, if the ball is turning, it is doing so slowly enough to suggest that Robert Croft and Dean Cosker may not have matters all their own way. Middlesex will be relieved to learn that Waqar Younis will not bowl again here — nor possibly against Hampshire starting on Wednesday — because of an elbow injury. Those wearing hard hats today will probably be working on the scaffolding.

This pitch is now five days old, having been used for the carried-over Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final against Essex, but is still good for its age. Mark Ramprakash, as if trying to justify his decision to bowl, returned career-best figures of three for 32 as Glamorgan, who led by 52 runs on the first innings, made 260 in their second. But Phil Tufnell did not get enough assistance to discourage him from bowling negatively over the wicket.

For Glamorgan Adrian Shaw not only avoided a pair but batted with some brio, smacking Tufnell over mid-wicket for six on his way to a 65-ball fifty. But after he put on 96 for the first wicket with Stephen James, Glamorgan lost six for 48 and defeat loomed.

For the second time in this match, however, Middlesex were frustrated by the 21-year-old batsman Michael Powell. In his last match Powell made his maiden championship hundred. Now he followed his first-innings 43 with a knock of such obduracy it was the despair of the Middlesex bowlers. His unbeaten 79 occupied 3¼ hours. Alun Evans, his rival for a place, must have despaired too.

Tour match Gloucestershire v South Africans

Rhodes stakes dazzling claim

David Foot sees key tourist batsmen hit form at Nevil Road

GARY KIRSTEN scored his second hundred of the match in the evening sunshine, again at his own composed tempo. There could hardly be a more assured personal preamble for Edgbaston.

Once more his presence represented utter reliability for the tourists. He hit 15 boundaries with thick-forearm power rather than poetry. And he was complemented by Jonty Rhodes's dazzling innings. Rhodes hurtled past his 50 off 36 balls, with two sixes and eight fours, struck with impish skill. If it was a Test statement — he seemed to be far from certain of inclusion — he surely clinched recognition.

Earlier Mark Alleyne, bereft of any kind of international honour to the puzzlement of the West Country faithful, compiled the most flawless of hundreds. Gloucestershire's last century against the South Africans was more than 60 years ago, by Wally Hammond and Reg Sinfield in the same game. Felicitously, Hammond's daughter Carilyn was making her first visit to the county ground yesterday, to present the club with one of her father's bats.

The track contained no menace as Gloucestershire demonstrated, declaring at 403 for nine, 13 behind on first innings. Apart from Alleyne there was a notable 67 from Reggie Williams, standing in for Jack Russell with pleasing, eager opportunism. It was only his 36th first-class appearance since his 1990 debut.

He batted for three hours, seldom in much trouble against an attack that, shorn of the services of Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock, was inclined to look nondescript. He must have sensed that the declaration was close when he slashed at Nantie Hayward, to be caught at third man.

This is also a match, whatever its limitations of real battle, of some importance to Brian McMillan, big, competitive and loquacious by nature. He took three wickets on Saturday; yesterday he batted for 93 minutes for 21, suggesting he realised his Test recall was riding on it.

Perhaps such considerations were responsible for one tetchy response after Mike Smith hurled the ball at the stumps in search of a run-out. It brushed the batsman's leg and, as Smith went to apologise, McMillan prodded him, none too amiably it seemed, with his bat. It led to a conference between the umpires, with both captains involved, and ended with a cordial exchange between the principals.

At the close South Africa were 200 for three. Gerry Liebenberg had clipped loosely off his pads and McMillan pulled unwisely into deep midwicket's hands to give James Averis his first senior Gloucestershire wicket during a tidy spell and in an over when he almost had Daryll Cullinan immediately trapped on the back foot. Cullinan went soon afterwards, in fact, caught in the covers off Tim Hancock, a poor ball and worse shot.

County Championship results and fixtures

APRIL 17
Derbys (24) bt Notts (3) by six wickets
Glamorgan (21) bt Gloucs (4) by 141 runs
Kent (20) bt Middlesex (1) by four wickets
Surrey (7) drew with Northamptonshire (5)
Sussex (20) bt Lancashire (3) by two wickets
Warwickshire (10) drew with Durham (10)
Worcs (23) bt Essex (4) by six wickets
Yorkshire (23) bt Somerset (4) by 215 runs

APRIL 23
Gloucs (22) bt Durham (4) by 48 runs
Essex (5) drew with Sussex (11)
Glamorgan (7) drew with Kent (4)
Hants (5) drew with Northants (5)
Lancashire (4) drew with Middlesex (4)
Leicestershire (3) drew with Worcestershire (3)
Somerset (5) drew with Nottinghamshire (7)
Surrey (24) bt Warks (4) by inns and 49 runs
Yorkshire (22) bt Derbyshire (2) by 111 runs

MAY 13
Warks (23) bt Derbys (4) by inns and 61 runs
Durham v Essex (Riverside)
Leics (24) bt Gloucs (4) by nine wickets
Surrey (24) bt Hants (2) by inns and 184 runs
Kent v Lancashire (Canterbury)
Middlesex v Somerset (Lord's)
Northants (23) bt Yorkshire (4) by eight wickets
Sussex (23) bt Notts (5) by four wickets

MAY 21
Lancashire (23) bt Essex (5) by seven wickets
Gloucs (23) bt Warks (4) by 300 runs
Kent (24) bt Durham (4) by innings and 27 runs
Leicestershire (8) drew with Hampshire (9)
Middlesex (9) drew with Worcestershire (10)
Northants (8) drew with Glamorgan (11)
Somerset (20) bt Surrey (5) by 165 runs
Derbyshire (24) bt Sussex (8) by seven wickets
Notts (21) bt Warks (4) by six wickets

MAY 29
Durham (22) bt Notts (5) by eight wickets
Leics (21) bt Derbys (4) by 38 runs
Middlesex v Glamorgan (Lord's)
Surrey (23) bt Kent (4) by innings and 30 runs
Worcestershire v Sussex (Worcester)

JUNE 3
Derbyshire v Gloucestershire (Chesterfield)
Essex v Nottinghamshire (Ilford)
Hampshire v Glamorgan (Southampton)
Kent v Sussex (Tunbridge Wells)
Middlesex v Durham (Lord's)
Northamptonshire v Lancashire (Northampton)
Somerset v Warwickshire (Taunton)
Surrey v Worcestershire (The Oval)
Yorkshire v Leicestershire (Headingley)

JUNE 11
Durham v Northamptonshire (Riverside)
Essex v Surrey (Chelmsford)
Glamorgan v Worcestershire (Cardiff)
Gloucestershire v Warwickshire (Bristol)
Lancashire v Somerset (Old Trafford)
Leicestershire v Kent (Leicester)
Yorkshire v Hampshire (Headingley)

JUNE 17
Durham v Yorkshire (Riverside)
Glamorgan v Leicestershire (Cardiff)
Hampshire v Derbyshire (Basingstoke)
Kent v Nottinghamshire (Canterbury)
Lancashire v Surrey (Old Trafford)
Northamptonshire v Middlesex (Northampton)
Somerset v Essex (Bath)
Sussex v Warwickshire (Hove)
Worcestershire v Gloucestershire (Worcester)

JUNE 26
Leicestershire v Sussex (Leicester)
Middlesex v Essex (Walker CG, Southgate)
Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan (Trent Bridge)
Somerset v Hampshire (Taunton)
Warwickshire v Lancashire (Edgbaston)

JULY 1
Derbyshire v Essex (Derby)
Durham v Leicestershire (Darlington)
Glamorgan v Surrey (TBC)
Hampshire v Gloucestershire (Southampton)
Kent v Yorkshire (Maidstone)
Nottinghamshire v Middlesex (Trent Bridge)
Sussex v Somerset (Hove)
Worcestershire v Northamptonshire (Worcester)

JULY 14
Gloucestershire v Sussex (Cheltenham)
Lancashire v Worcestershire (Lytham)
Leicestershire v Northamptonshire (Leicester)

JULY 15
Essex v Kent (Southend)
Surrey v Middlesex (Guildford)
Warwickshire v Hampshire (Edgbaston)
Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire (Scarborough)

JULY 22
Glamorgan v Lancashire (Colwyn Bay)
Gloucestershire v Surrey (Cheltenham)
Hampshire v Nottinghamshire (Portsmouth)
Middlesex v Yorkshire (Lord's)
Northamptonshire v Derbyshire (Northampton)
Somerset v Durham (Taunton)

JULY 23
Warwickshire v Essex (Edgbaston)

JULY 30
Derbyshire v Kent (Derby)
Hampshire v Durham (Southampton)
Lancashire v Leicestershire (Old Trafford)
Notts v Northants (Trent Bridge)
Surrey v Sussex (The Oval)
Warwickshire v Glamorgan (Edgbaston)
Worcestershire v Yorkshire (Worcester)

AUGUST 5
Essex v Glamorgan (Chelmsford)
Kent v Hampshire (Canterbury)
Lancashire v Gloucestershire (Old Trafford)
Leicestershire v Somerset (Leicester)
Middlesex v Warwickshire (Lord's)
Sussex v Durham (Eastbourne)
Worcs v Notts (Kidderminster)

AUGUST 6
Surrey v Derbyshire (The Oval)

AUGUST 14
Derbyshire v Worcestershire (Derby)
Durham v Glamorgan (Riverside)
Gloucestershire v Kent (Bristol)
Hampshire v Essex (Portsmouth)
Somerset v Northamptonshire (Taunton)
Sussex v Middlesex (Hove)
Yorkshire v Lancashire (Headingley)

AUGUST 19
Durham v Lancashire (Riverside)
Essex v Gloucestershire (Colchester)
Kent v Worcestershire (Canterbury)
Leicestershire v Middlesex (Leicester)
Northants v Warks (Northampton)
Nottinghamshire v Surrey (Trent Bridge)
Somerset v Derbyshire (Taunton)

AUGUST 20
Glamorgan v Yorkshire (Cardiff)

AUGUST 26
Derbyshire v Durham (Derby)
Northamptonshire v Kent (Northampton)
Nottinghamshire v Leicestershire (Worksop CG)
Sussex v Hampshire (Hove)
Worcestershire v Warwickshire (Worcester)
Yorkshire v Essex (Scarborough)

AUGUST 27
Gloucestershire v Somerset (Bristol)

AUGUST 30
Sussex v Glamorgan (Hove)

AUGUST 31
Hampshire v Middlesex (Southampton)

SEPTEMBER 1
Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire (Bristol)
Lancashire v Derbyshire (Old Trafford)
Somerset v Worcestershire (Taunton)
Warwickshire v Leicestershire (Edgbaston)
Yorkshire v Surrey (Headingley)

SEPTEMBER 9
Durham v Surrey (Riverside)
Glamorgan v Derbyshire (Cardiff)
Kent v Somerset (Canterbury)
Leicestershire v Essex (Leicester)
Middlesex v Gloucestershire (Lord's)
Northamptonshire v Sussex (Northampton)
Nottinghamshire v Lancashire (Trent Bridge)
Worcestershire v Hampshire (Worcester)
Yorkshire v Warwickshire (Headingley)

SEPTEMBER 17
Derbyshire v Middlesex (Derby)
Essex v Northamptonshire (Chelmsford)
Glamorgan v Somerset (Cardiff)
Lancashire v Hampshire (Old Trafford)
Notts v Gloucs (Trent Bridge)
Surrey v Leicestershire (The Oval)
Sussex v Yorkshire (Hove)
Warwickshire v Kent (Edgbaston)
Worcestershire v Durham (Worcester)

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Cricket

Cork bursts back to the top as Butcher gets nod for openers

Mike Selvey

DOMINIC CORK, the new Derbyshire captain who missed much of last season through injury, was named yesterday in a squad of 12 for the first Test which starts at Edgbaston on Thursday. Also included is Mark Butcher, the Surrey left-hander, who will partner Mike Atherton at the top of the order, and Mark Ealham, who is likely to bat at seven as the fourth seamer.

Robert Croft is the sole concession to the spinner's art, which makes sense on a pitch tipped to be seamer-friendly. The 12th man will be one of Ealham, Cork and Dean Headley, with the likelihood that Headley, who has not performed at his best this season, will miss out.

Lunch may be for wimps, as Gordon Gekko famously would have it, but the influence of a Chesterfield cheese salad last Friday should not be underestimated. David Lloyd, the England coach, had made the trip to Queen's Park to watch Cork and by lunchtime, when in nine ordinary overs on a helpful pitch the bowler had failed to take a wicket, the report that Lloyd would have taken to Saturday's selection meeting might have recommended the back-burner. But after the interval it was a different tale as Cork took five Leicestershire wickets for 32.

Cork's 19-match international career has been a salutary lesson for anyone who would take success for granted. His entrance in 1995 with seven wickets in the first innings of his debut against West Indies at Lord's, and a high-class hat-trick (Richie Richardson, Junior Murray and Carl Hooper) at Old Trafford, could scarcely have been more dramatic. Here, we thought, was a cricketer for the modern age with his face paint, theatrical appealing and swagger bordering on bumptiousness. But barely 18 months later, in Christchurch, he had played the last of his Tests as injury and a private life lo turmoll brought him down.

Now he is back to fitness after a hernia operation last season, a more rounded character harnessed by the captaincy of a county club who have sufficient troubles of their own; and in the modern parlance he is "shaping" the ball nicely. The South Africans, who have suffered at his hand before, will not be happier for his inclusion.

"I'm surprised and delighted to get a foot back on the ladder," Cork said yesterday. "And now I have to get into the final 11 and stay there.

"If I hadn't been picked I would have been upset but not angry as I once would have been. I'm a lot more relaxed than I was. Captaincy has helped, because it's easy to neglect your own game when in charge so I've worked that bit harder to compensate."

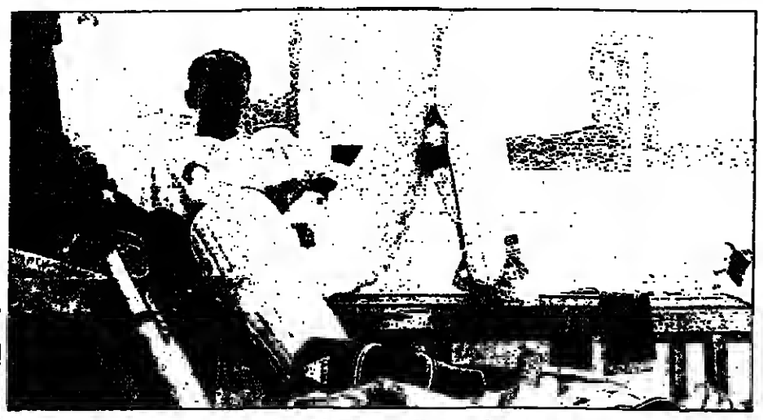
The bulk of the debate at the selection meeting centred on the openers. Atherton, as an accomplished and brave player who has previously got up the South African pipe, was always going to keep his place once he had begun to show a semblance of form. So the talk was of his potential partner.

Of the four names that had been mentioned — Butcher, Darren Maddy, Nick Knight and Steve James — realistically it had been boiled down to the first two.

Maddy's case had been made by his prolific scoring on last winter's A tour to Kenya and Sri Lanka, and a dynamic start to this season for Leicestershire. He is a young man confident in his ability, is a good technician and fields brilliantly.

Butcher, however, has several points in his favour quite apart from being the new England captain's brother-in-law. He made his Test debut against Australia last season, playing in five of the six matches and scoring 87 in the second innings at Lord's. His winter was mixed, with a first-ball nought in the abandoned match in Jamaica (when in fairness he was only brought into the eide with the toss imminent and on an appalling surface) and a pair in the final match in Antigua. But he batted with real character and skill for 2½ hours to steer England to s win in the third Test in Trinidad, has played well this season, averaging almost 80, and is deemed to be coming to terms with the need to play long innings.

The key to his inclusion is bie left-bandednees, which gives England the classical combination. A left-bander and a right-hander rotating the strike can upset the line of the best bowlers; and the man currently in the top branches of the ratings tree, Allan Donald, bowls from wide of the crease and slants the ball away from left-banders without alternative, so be dislikes it more than many.



Relaxed . . . Dominic Cork eases into his Test recall yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENCE GRIFFITHS

England Test averages

Batting

Player	M	I	No	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50
O P Thorpe	49	89	11	3303	138	42.34	6	23
A J Stewart	75	134	9	5153	190	41.22	10	27
M A Atherton	79	145	5	5442	185*	38.87	11	34
N Hussain	29	51	5	1686	207	36.65	6	4
M A Ealham	6	9	3	186	53*	31.00	0	2
M R Ramprakash	23	40	2	851	154	22.39	1	3
M A Butcher	10	19	1	379	87	21.05	0	2
D D Cork	19	27	4	467	59	20.86	0	2
D Gough	21	30	4	363	65	13.96	0	2
R D B Croft	11	16	1	176	31	11.80	0	0
O W Headley	9	15	4	108	31	9.81	0	0
A R C Fraser	38	54	10	309	29	7.02	0	0

Bowling

Player	Overs	M	Runs	Wkts	Avg	5W	10W	Best
M A Ealham	138.4	33	383	15	25.53	0	0	4-31
A R C Fraser	1515.1	373	4001	148	27.40	10	1	8-53
D Gough	753.4	145	2401	85	28.24	3	0	6-49
D W Headley	302.5	46	990	35	28.28	0	0	4-72
D D Cork	734.1	148	2249	74	30.39	3	0	7-43
R D B Croft	449.5	122	1043	34	30.67	1	0	5-65
M R Ramprakash	85.1	13	267	3	89.00	0	0	1-2
M A Atherton	68	12	302	2	151.00	0	0	1-20
M A Butcher	7	1	30	0	—	0	0	0-0
A J Stewart	3.7	0	13	0	—	0	0	0-0
O P Thorpe	23	7	37	0	—	0	0	0-0

County Championship: Worcs v Sussex

Hick's ton completes his hundred

David Hopps at New Road

GRAEME HICK's Century of Centuries had just been completed and, not being sn ostentatious type, he wonld have preferred to get on with the game.

But Tom Graveney, Worcestershire's president who completed the same feat oo the same ground 34 years ago, was having none of it. With the throatiest of standing ovations still shaking the horse-chestnuts and hanging baskets, he shuffled on with a glass of bubbly. "I had to buy my champagne when *I* did it," he reminisced happily.

Hick did not check the vintage before taking a sip, but it is to be hoped it was not a bottle of Lord's '96. Nearly two years have elapsed since his last England Test, and another avalanche of county runs, even as his 132 yesterday followed his first-innings 104, seemed somewhat inconsequential.

As much as Graveney talks of his own Test recall at 39, Hick must wonder whether Tom's oephew, David, the chairman of selectors, will prove so accommodating.

When Hick clipped the seamer Mark Rohinson in front of square in mid-afternoon he became the 24th memher of an excinsive clnb: younger, at 32 years eight days, than all but Wally Hammond; faster, in his 574th first-class innings, than all but Don Bradman (295) and Denis Comptoo (552). Geoffrey Boycott's post-war record of 151 centuries is not beyond him.

If Hick has never won hearts for England, affections at Worcestershire run deep. Sympathetic groans tracked a sticky period in the eighties when Sussex, assisted by occasional variahle bounce, summoned up a respectable challenge.

Wheo Hick moved from 95 to 99 with s Chinese cut off James Kirtley which flew perilously close to his leg stump, you could almost hear the pacemakers overloading. His own faith ran much deeper: at lunchtime, barely past 50, he had checked there was enough film in his camera.

Beneath Hick's shadow unfolded another innings which one day might prove more significant to England. Vikram Solanki, vihrant and stylish and no longer as rash, completed a maiden championship century that matched Hick's for quality.

They maintained a similar rate, drawing strength from their respective amhitions. Solanki periodically indnlging in encouraging punches to Hick's midriff. Only when Solanki, on 77, mis-pulled a Toby Peirce long-hop close to mid-on did he look in danger. His hundred arrived with Hick on 99 and, rather than unsettling the master, swakened Hick's memories of how it all began, for Zimbabwe against Oxford University in the Parks 13 years ago.

"I looked at Vikram's face and it reminded me how much I enjoyed the first one," Hick said. He relished this one, too, his strapping, self-conscious frame relaxing into a display of rare emotion as he reached his own hundred two balls later. From Solanki there was an embrace, and handshakes followed from most of the Sussex side.

Hick's innings, 132 in almost four hours, ended when he skied Keith Newell to mid-wicket. When Solanki was bowled for 155, swinging at Robinson, Worcestershire declared at 343 for three, a lead of 418. Sussex limped to 35 for no wicket in 22 overs by the close.

Hundreds and thousands . . . Graeme Hick is applanded to the pavilion after making 132, his hundredth ton PHOTOGRAPH: WINSTON BYNORTH

Boon and Speak lift Durham into third place

DURHAM climbed to third place in tha Britannic County Championship table yesterday with an eight-wicket victory over Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, *writes Don Beer.* They were ieft to score 167 and cruised home with the captain David Boon (64) and Nick Speak (77) sharing an unbroken third-wicket stand of 120.

Earlier Nottinghamshire had slid from 144 for four to 224 all out and Durham made an uneasy start, losing Jon Lewis and Michael Gough before Speak, with eight fours and a six, and Boon, with six fours, saw them home.

At Ilford, Stnart Law scored 83 from 59 deliveries, with 12 fours and a six, as Essex joined Yorkshire at the top of the AXA League table with an eight-wicket triumph over Northamptonshire after the visitors had scored a useful 239 for six.

Law's runs came from an opening stand of 131 in 19 overs with Darren Robinson, who scored only 19 of the first 100 but then hit 66 from 78 balls before Nasser Hussain weighed in with an unbeaten 82.

In an astonishing game at Taunton, Warwickshire were dismissed for 96, with only a 41-run ninth-wicket stand between Gladstone Small (20) and Keith Piper (21) getting them that far against Somerset.

The boma side made heavy weather of their four-wicket victory, losing six of their own befora Piran Holloway with 25 and Keith Parson, unbeaten on 18, secured the points.

Surrey v Kent

Leaders unashamedly put best spin on a poor surface

Robert Kitson at The Oval

ANY surface which causes a four-day game to be wrapped up in just over six sessions is bound to raise eyebrows, but the championship leaders Surrey will escape official censure after demolishing Kent by an innings and 30 runs at a near-deserted Oval yesterday morning.

Although Kent's captain Steve Marsh expressed dissatisfaction at the short-lived nature of the contest, the umpires indicated the pitch would receive a "poor" marking rather than be branded unfit.

"It's not ideal when it's supposed to be a four-day game," insisted Marsh, having seen Saqlain Mushtaq and Ian Salisbury roll his team over for 86 and 228. "It would have been over in a day and three-quarters if Carl Hooper hadn't played so well."

Only 40 balls were needed for Surrey to complete their third win in five games, Saqlain finishing with match figures of seven for 118, after which Adam Hollioake was unrepentant about the home side's choice of a strip which had seen three days' use.

"We batted badly but still managed to get 340," he pointed out. "It was a big toss to win, but all the wicket did was spin. We've got two very good spinners and they made the most of it. That's home advantage: wheo we go away we're going to be playing on green seaming wickets to nullify our strengths."

From Kent's point of view, though, a big game with a potentially crucial influence on their season has disappeared down the pan with, Hooper apart, barely a ripple. On some smaller grounds there would be more sympathy fhr Surrey's claims that all alternative pitches were damp; Test match venues should not have to rely on the benefit of the doubt.

What did shine through during the relatively small amount of cricket played was the quality of two individual performances. Hooper's masterly 94 in the Kent second innings, allied to his seven for 93, simply emphasised his exceptional current form, and Graham Thorpe's six first-innings catches fell only one short of the world record held jointly by Micky Stewart and Tony Brown.

Further joy for Surrey duly arrived in the shape of Mark Butcher's Test call-up, the surprised left-hander only alerted by a call from David Graveney en route to The Oval, although it will ensure the county's reserve batting strength is again stretched against Worcestershire this week. The type of pitch Surrey should lay in front of Graeme Hick will already be exercising certain minds inside the Oval offices.

Giddins is no thrower, say county

John Beaumont

WARWICKSHIRE moved quickly yesterday to dampen speculation that Ed Giddins, their leading wicket-taker this season, might be a chncker.

A Snnday newspaper article implied thst Giddins had not been considered for England selection because of mntterings on the county circuit abont the legality of his action. David Graveney, England's chairman of selectors, denied that the rumours had any bearing on their decisloo not to pick him for this week's first Test against South Africa at Edgbaston.

Giddins, who returned to competitive cricket in April after completing a 19-month ban for drug taking while be was a Sussex player, was reinctant to be drawn into the debate. "There's not a lot I can say," he said yesterday. "I have never been no-balled for throwing and there is certainly nothing intentionally illegal in my action; I probahly just have a quick wrist action."

Phil Neale, Warwickshire's director of coaching, supported his player and said nothing untoward had been spotted on videos taken by the county. "This is the first time the matter has been raised hnt, as far as we are concerned, there is nothing wrong with Ed's action," he said. "Bob Cottam, our bowling consultant, has videoed Ed for coaching purposes and has not raised any concerns."

Throwing — the straightening of the arm in the process of delivering the ball — hrought a crop of high-profile casualties, snch as Tony Lock, Harold Rhodes and Ian Meckiff, during the late 1950s and 1960s.

Doubts have been cast on several actions since then, mainly in the privacy of dressing-rooms or pavilion bars, hut few umpires have seen occasion to no-ball for the offence in the last 25 years.

Giddins, since his return to county cricket, has taken 21 championship wickets in four matches, with more than half his victims bowled or lbw.

Scoreboard

Britannic Assurance County Championship
(Third day; today 11.0)

DERBYSHIRE 4
LEICESTERSHIRE 21

Chesterfield: Leicestershire won by 38 runs.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First innings 246 (I J Sutcliffe 62; Cork 5-72).
DERBYSHIRE: First innings 177 (Ormond 5-50).

LEICESTERSHIRE: Second innings 166 (V J Wells 54; De Freitas 5-38, Dean 5-57).

DERBYSHIRE
Second innings (overnight: 43-1)
A S Rollins b Wells b Mullally ... 44
K J Dean c Nixon b Wells ... 18
T A Tweats c Sutcliffe b Wells ... 13
K J Barnett c Lewis b Brimson ... 57
M R May c & b Wells ... 22
M E Cassar c Wells b Mullally ... 0
†K M Krikken c Nixon b Mullally ... 0
*D G Cork c Lewis b Brimson ... 8
P A J DeFreitas c Simmons b Mullally ... 6
P Aldred not out ... 10
Extras (b1, lb7, w3, nb12) ... 23
Total (74.4 overs) ... 217
Fall of wickets conts 76, 96, 101, 182, 192, 192, 196, 201.
Bowling: Lewis 19-4-78-0; Ormond 5-0-22-1; Mullally 23.4-9-57-4; Brimson 12-7-24-2; Wells 13-7-19-3; Maddy 2-1-11-0.
Umpires: J W Holder and M J Harris.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 5
DURHAM 22

Trent Bridge: Durham won by eight wickets.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First innings 211 (P J Franks 68; Betts 5-56).
DURHAM: First innings 269 (P D Collingwood 97no, M J Foster 68; Tolley 5-48).

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Second innings (overnight 144-4)
N A Gie c Lewis b Foster ... 20
M N Bowen c Speight b Betts ... 32
C M Tolley c Phillips b Foster ... 6
P J Franks c Foster b Wood ... 4
†C M W Read not out ... 16
*P A Strang c Phillips b Betts ... 10
A R Oram c Speight b Harrison ... 1
Extras (b1, lb1, w13, nb4) ... 19
Total (73.1 overs) ... 224
Fall of wickets conts 152, 168, 183, 202, 218.
Bowling: Betts 22-5-71-2; Wood 21-5-62-3; Harrison 9.1-3-29-1; Phillips 5-1-16-0; Foster 15-3-41-4; Gough 1-0-3-0.

DURHAM
Second innings
J J B Lewis c Franks b Oram ... 8
M A Gough lbw b Strang ... 21
N J Speak not out ... 77
*D C Boon not out ... 64
Extras (lb7) ... 7
Total (for 2, 50.2 overs) ... 167
Fall of wickets: 28, 47.
Did not bat: P D Collingwood, †M P Speight, M J Foster, N C Phillips, M M Betts, J Wood, S J Harmison.
Bowling: Oram 10-2-35-1; Franks 11-1-32-0; Tolley 5-0-17-0; Strang 13.2-4-37-1; Bowen 7-1-20-0; Dowman 4-0-19-0.
Umpires: J H Hampshire and P Willey.

SURREY 23
KENT 4

The Oval: Surrey won by an innings and 30 runs.

SURREY: First innings 342 (A J Stewart 86, I D Salisbury 56no, M A Butcher 51; Hooper 7-93).
KENT: First innings 86 (Saqlain 3-18; Salisbury 3-13).

KENT
Second innings (overnight: 135-6)
D W Headley b Saqlain ... 0
M M Patel b Butcher b Saqlain ... 24
M J McCague not out ... 13
Extras (b2, lb1, w2, nb8) ... 13
Total (60.5 overs) ... 226
Fall of wickets conts 166.
Bowling: Bicknell 7-1-15-2; Tudor 3-0-25-1; Saqlain 24.5-6-100-4; Salisbury 24-6-73-3; B C Hollioake 2-0-7-0.
Umpires: B Dudleston and R Palmer.

WORCESTERSHIRE
SUSSEX

Worcester: Sussex (8pts) need 384 runs to beat Worcs (8) with all their second-innings wickets standing.

WORCESTERSHIRE: First innings 353-8 dec (G A Hick 104)
SUSSEX: First innings 278 (M G Bevan 86; Lampitt 5-56).

WORCESTERSHIRE
Second innings
W P C Weston c Adams b Robinson ... 21
V S Solanki b Robinson ... 155
G A Hick c Peirce b Newell ... 132
G R Haynes not out ... 3
Extras (b5, lb8, w2, nb11) ... 27
Total (for 3 dec. 89.2 overs) ... 343
Fall of wickets: 68, 301, 343.
Did not bat: *T M Moody, D A Leatherdale, S R Lampitt, †S J Rhodes, R K Illingworth, P J Newport, A Sheriyar.
Bowling: Lewry 16-1-51-0; Kirtley 17-2-61-0; Robinson 19.2-4-77-2; Newell 10-4-33-1; A A Khan 19-4-68-0; Bevan 1-0-7-0; Peirce 8-2-32-0.

SUSSEX Second innings
M T E Peirce not out ... 19
W G Khan not out ... 13
Extras (lb4, nb8) ... 12
Total (for 0, 22 overs) ... 85
To bat: C J Adams, *M G Bevan, J R Carpenter, K Newell, †S Humphries, A A Khan, R J Kirtley, J O Lewry, M A Robinson.
Bowling: Newport 5-3-7-0; Sheriyar 7-3-8-0; Illingworth 6-1-5-0; Lampitt 4-1-7-0.
Umpires: A A Jones and G Sharp

MIDDLESEX
GLAMORGAN

Lord's: Middlesex (8pts) need 313 runs to beat Glamorgan (7) with all their second-innings wickets standing.

GLAMORGAN: First innings 309 (P A Cottey 81; Hewitt 5-69).

MIDDLESEX
First innings (overnight 250-9)
D G Nash c Maynard b Watkin ... 70
P C R Tufnell not out ... 7
Extras (b5, lb8, w2, nb2) ... 18
Total (102.5 overs) ... 256
Fall of wicket conts 231.
Bowling: Wagar 3-0-26-0; Watkin 21.5-10-30-5; Thomas 19-1-56-3; Croft 38-6-91-1; Dale 2-0-3-0; Cosker 18-2-38-1; Cottey 1-1-0-0.

GLAMORGAN Second innings
S P James c Brown b Ramprakash ... 45
†A D Shaw st Brown b Tufnell ... 31
A Dale c Langer b Blanchett ... 1
*M P Maynard lbw b Tufnell ... 10
P A Cottey c Brown b Fraser ... 7
M J Powell not out ... 79
R D B Croft c Langer b Fraser ... 1
O D Thomas b Ramprakash ... 25
Waqar Younis lbw b Fraser ... 0
O A Cosker b Blanchett ... 12
S L Watkin c Kettleborough b Ramprakash ... 8
Extras (lb6, w6, nb2) ... 14
Total (90.2 overs) ... 260
Fall of wickets 98, 97, 118, 122, 134, 144, 196, 208, 247.
Bowling: Fraser 19-5-47-3; Hewitt 11-1-49-0; Tufnell 36-13-68-2; Blanchett 12-1-38-2; Ramprakash 12.2-3-32-3.

MIDDLESEX Second innings
J L Langer not out ... 2
R A Kettleborough not out ... 4
Extras ... 0
Total (for 0, 6 overs) ... 6
To bat: *M R Ramprakash, M W Gatting, O A Shah, O C Nash, †K R Brown, I N Blanchett, J P Hewitt, A R C Fraser, P C R Tufnell.
Bowling: Watkin 3-1-6-0; Thomas 2-2-0-0; Croft 1-1-0-0.
Umpires: V A Holder and B I Burgess.

AXA League

SOMERSET 4
WARWICKSHIRE 0

Taunton: Somerset won by four wickets

WARWICKSHIRE
*N V Knight c Turner b Jones ... 13
N M K Smith b Caddick ... 3
D L Hemp b Caddick ... 3
O P Ostler c Turner b Jones ... 8
T L Penney lbw b Rose ... 0
D R Brown c Turner b Jones ... 9
A F Giles c Parsons b Jones ... 1
†K J Piper b Mushtaq ... 21
M A Sheikh b Jones ... 0
G C Small c Trescothick b Caddick ... 20
E S H Giddins not out ... 0
Extras (lb6, w10, nb4) ... 20
Total (36 overs) ... 98
Fall: 13, 25, 37, 40, 40, 48, 51, 51, 92.
Bowling: Rose 8-3-15-1; Caddick 8-1-24-3; Jones 8-2-25-5; Trescothick 5-1-12-0; Mushtaq 6-1-16-1.

SOMERSET
M Burns b Giddins ... e
P C L Holloway c Ostler b Smith ... 25
G D Rose c Ostler b Sheikh ... 9
M N Lethwell c Piper b Sheikh ... 11
*S C Ecclestone c Ostler b Smith ... 15
†R J Turner lbw b Giles ... 4
K A Parsons not out ... 18
Mushtaq Ahmed not out ... e
Extras (lb2, w7) ... 9
Total (for 6, 32.3 overs) ... 97
Fall of wickets: 3, 29, 41, 64, 69, 87.
Did not bat: M E Trescothick, P S Jones, A R Caddick.
Bowling: Giddins 8-0-23-1; Brown 8-3-16-0, Small 3-0-15-0; Sheikh 6-1-21-2; Smith 3-1-8-2; Giles 4.3-1-12-1.

ESSEX 4
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 0

Ilford: Essex won by eight wickets.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
M S Loye c S G Law b Such ... 28
†R J Warren run out ... 22
J N Snape c Irani b Such ... 16
*K M Curran lbw b Such ... 18
A L Penberthy c S G Law b Irani ... 30
D J G Sales run out ... 26
R J Bailey not out ... 38
T C Walton not out ... 61
Extras (lb6, w6, nb4) ... 16
Total (for 6, 40 overs) ... 239
Fall of wickets: 49, 65, 73, 103, 142, 152.
Did not bat: D E Malcolm, F A Rose, O P Swann.
Bowling: Ilott 8-0-42-0, Cowan 8-0-40-0; Irani 8-0-59-1; Such 8-0-33-3; Grayson 8-0-59-0.

ESSEX
D D J Robinson st Warren b Snape ... 96
S G Law c Bailey b Snape ... 83
*N Hussain not out ... 82
R C Irani not out ... 23
Extras (lb1, w5) ... 6
Total (for 2, 38.2 overs) ... 240
Fall of wickets: 131, 176.
Did not bat: A P Grayson, B O Peters, †R J Rollins, O R Law, A P Cowan, M C Ilott, P M Such.
Bowling: Rose 5.2-0-24-0; Penberthy 7-0-56-0; Curran 3-0-35-0; Malcolm 8-0-40-0; Snape 8-0-46-2; Swann 5-0-38-0.

Tour match

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
SOUTH AFRICANS

Bristol: The South Africans lead Gloucestershire by 215 runs with seven second-innings wickets standing.

SOUTH AFRICANS: First innings 418-8 dec (G Kirsten 125, L Klusener 73no, J N Rhodes 59).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
First innings (overnight: 265-6)
*M W Alleyne c Boucher b Kallis ... 109
†R C J Williams c Klusener b Hayward ... 67
J Lewis c Nitini b Adams ... 11
J M M Averis not out ... 8
A M Smith not out ... e
Extras (b12, lb8, w4, nb34) ... 58
Total (for 9 dec, 128 overs) ... 403
Fall of wickets conts 367, 386, 398.
Bowling: Hayward 15-4-78-2; Klusener 26-6-67-0; Kallis 26-5-79-2; Nitini 13-1-51-0; McMillan 19-9-38-3; Adams 28-6-66-1; Cullinan 1-0-4-0.

SOUTH AFRICANS
Second innings
D F J Liebenberg c Alleyne b Lewis ... 1
*G Kirsten not out ... 104
B M McMillan c Windows b Averis ... 21
D J Cullinan c Windows b Hancock ... 4
J N Rhodes not out ... 68
Extras (lb2) ... 2
Total (for 3, 57 overs) ... 200
Fall of wickets: 9, 80, 105.
Bowling: Smith 7-4-8-0; Lewis 11-1-53-1; Averis 12-6-14-1; Ball 16-3-68-0; Alleyne 5-1-24-0; Hancock 7-1-35-1.

Other match

The Parks: Oxford Univ 260-7 dec (D J Eadie 66) and 97-5. Yorkshire 203-4 dec (C White 80, M P Vaughan 69).

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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Sergio Garcia, who competes this week in the Amateur championship at Muirfield, is tipped for the top. Ballesteros reckons his 18-year-old compatriot has it all. **David Davies** looks at the record, the game and the will of the new kid on the block

El Nino blows in and takes it deep

SERGIO GARCIA was a fresh-faced boy of 16 when, on the Friday evening of the 1996 Open, he left his table in a Lytham St Annes restaurant, walked over to where Tom Lehman was dining and said: "You are certain to win this championship. It is time for you to win a major." It is a matter of record that Lehman, the next morning, went out to Royal Lytham, compiled a record-breaking 63, established a six-stroke lead over Nick Faldo after 54 holes and won by three strokes. It was his first major championship win.

Lehman made a gracious acceptance speech and then went in search of Garcia, the Spaniard who had followed him every step of the way over the last two rounds, having just missed the cut himself. The two had exchanged nods, winks, smiles, the occasional thumbs-up throughout the 36 holes and, now that it was over, Lehman wanted to thank him. Garcia was not far away and Lehman approached him with the trophy, the claret jug, still in his hands. "Here," he said, "you hold this. You have to practise because some day you will win it."

The Spaniard closes his eyes at the memory of it. "I could hardly breathe," he says. "My hands, they were like this," and he holds them out and makes them tremble violently. It was the first time he had laid his hands on a major championship trophy. Lehman and others think it may oot be the last. "Sergio takes it deep," says Lehman. "He thinks he can beat the world and he may be right."

Garcia has been a golfing prodigy at every level at which he has competed and that has been almost every level known to man. The Spanish Golf Federation, understandably proud of him, have produced a list of his achievements to date, detailing all his age-group wins as well as those in open competition. Altogether, at the start of his 18th year, he had won 58 times.

He was, for instance, champion of his club at 12; he got down to scratch the next year and made the cut in the PGA European Tour event, the Mediterranean Open, at 14. He was only 15 when he won the European Amateur championship, by five shots, and 16 when he became the Spanish champioo at every level, under-16, under-18 and under-and over-21.

His 17th year was astonishing. His first two events, Spanish amateur tournaments, he won by 14 and 12 strokes. He won the Spanish amateur championship by 10 strokes and, in a French event at Hossegor, a course much favoured by Garcia's great friend, Jose Maria Olazabal, he won the Grand Prix des Landes. The runner-up was one under par, Garcia 20 under. His rounds were 65, 68, 67, 64, the last a course record to go with those he holds at Mediterraneo Club de Campo (64) and Sotogrande (65). Garcia, as Lehman says, takes it deep.

He is still an amateur, indeed eligible to defend his British Boys title, and he plays in the Amateur championship starting at Muirfield today. But he knows the time is coming to put away childish things, that his nickname El Nino (The Kid) will no longer be appropriate. He is playing in more and more professional events and last September made the cut in the Lancôme Trophy in Paris and missed it by ooe in the British Masters at the Forest of Arden.

But making cuts is not what Garcia is about. Ask him about those two events and he is dismissive. "I always play to win," he says. "I always expect to win. That way you take less shots than if you are just trying to make the cut." By way of illustrating that, he played in the Spanish PGA event, the Catalonia Open, at the back end of last year and won by five strokes. There were 132 professionals competing and among those he beat were Jose Rivero and Manuel Pinero, former Ryder Cup players both, and Santiago Luna and Domingo Hospital, PGA tour regulars.

Nor has his prowess gone unnoticed in America. The president of the Mexican golf federation invited him to play in the Monterrey Open, which is part of the Nike Tour, the secondary circuit to the US Tour. The 18-year-old Garcia opeoed up with 66, 67 to take the lead, the first amateur ever to do such a thing, and he enjoyed it. "It is not normal," he said, "for a young player to be on top of the leader-board in a tournament like this. Not normal but I am comfortable being there."

It did not last. He produced rounds of 75, 72 to finish eight under par and 19th. He would have won £1,750 had he been a professional.

The performance dip over the weekeod was just a golfing fluctuatioo in form, Garcia believes. He is not worried about playing with the game's top names and, as a televisioo interviewer discovered at the recent Spanish Open, he can be emphatic about that. After rounds of 66, 70 he was among the leaders and the TV man asked him if he was frightened about playing with the likes of Ian Woosnam, Olazabal and Severiano Ballesteros.

Open taste . . . Garcia in action at Royal Lytham & St Annes in 1996
PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN MUNDAY

"No, I'm not," said Garcia.

"But surely to play with great players must be frightening," the man persisted. The interview was live and Garcia looked at his interrogator and stared at him for 10 long, silent seconds. Finally he said: "Do you want me to say 'yes' because I have already said 'no'."

HAVING demolished the man from TV he came to the media centre to impress the press. What, he was asked, was his ambition for the week? "I have come to win," he said. "I have maybe less chances than the professionals but I have exactly the same will as they have."

It is refreshing and encouraging to see that this "will" applies whether he is at the top of his game or not. In the Turespana Masters at Santa Ponsa in Majorca last month he was in grave danger of missing the cut but birdied two of the last three holes to get in. In that respect he is like the man he calls "my second father", Ballesteros. No golfer has ever tried harder to win than Ballesteros, who knew that you could not win on Sunday unless you were playing.

Ballesteros missed the cut at Santa Ponsa. He needed a birdie at the last hole to get in and needed to hole a chip to get the birdie. He failed, in his own tournament, but was gracious enough afterwards to put aside his disappointment and say: "Sergio is Spain's next great champion. He has great ability, he is very intelligent, he has a great mind for golf: he has everything that a champion can put together."

Peter McEvoy, current captain of Great Britain and Ireland's amateurs, has seen a lot of Garcia over the years and remembers his first acquaintance, when the Spaniard was 15. "I know it sounds trite," he says, "but he was literally just a lad in short trousers. He could hardly have been five feet tall, not at all like Sandy Lyle who was a man at that age.

"But it was very evident that he had a tremendous talent. He could hit the ball abont 220 yards, with a hit of run, and do that against the wind, at will, by punching the ball. Now he's become a monster hitter. It's a fairly wristy swing, there's a substantial amount of flail in there, but he's a great prospect for the European tour."

Garcia averaged 311 yards at the measured holes in the Monterrey Open and, downwind, belted one drive 371 yards which, given that he is under 5ft 10in tall and less than 11st in weight, is some hitting. His shoulders are still much more Olazabal-slim than Ballesteros-broad but he has been to a specialist who, after noting his big hands and feet, predicts there is a lot more growing to be done.

Last year, at 17, Garcia played in and won tournaments in the Canary Islands, France (twice), Ireland, Slovenia, England, Scotland, the United States and, of course, Spain. He had a stroke average of 69.33, 91 per ceot of his rounds were par or better and in matchplay his record was played 16, won 15. He travels the world courtesy of his hard-working father, the professional at Mediterraneo Clnh de Campo, in Castellon, who pays what he can, with contributions from the Spanish federation and from "my big brother", Jose Marquina, who has a business in Miami.

Professionalism beckons at the end of 1999, when he intends to go to the PGA Tour school, get his card and play the first years of the new century in Europe.

It is by no means certain that he will succeed. There have been prodigious talents before him who failed to survive the transition from boy wonder to a man's estate, or simply from amateur to professional. There is Michael Welch, for instance, who in his teens, and in the same year, won the boys' championships of the Midlands, England, Britain, Europe and the World. Now 25, he is struggling on Europe's minor tours, still talented but apparently unable to express it at the highest level.

There is still time for Welch, of course, as there is for Raymie Burns, the Irishman who dominated the amateur scene in his country but, since getting on to the European tour in 1995, has finished 99th, 81st and 97th in the Volvo rankings.

And there is Gordon Sherry, of course, another Awful Warning. Sherry won the Amateur championship in a year when he also finished 4th in the PGA European tour eveot, the Scottish Open. The following week he played practice rounds at the St Andrews Open championship, to rave reviews, with Greg Norman, Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson. Three years later he is 45th on the Challenge tour and just another struggler.

"I think," says Garcia, "that you must be certain of yourself. You must not go around and say to people, 'I can beat you by five shots.' But you must be certain of your ability." That Garcia is completely convinced of his own is evidenced by the tournament he chooses as the highlight of his career.

It is not the time he embarrassed his elders at the age of 12 and won the club championship, or his first national title, nor even, as an amateur, beating all those pros in the Catalonia Open. It is an event in which he missed the cut, the Open Championship of 1996, when Garcia held, for a few moments, the claret jug. "That," he says, his eyes shining, "was the best thing of my life, so far."

Boy wonder . . . Sergio Garcia, now 18, has been a golfing ... says Ballesteros. 'He has great ability, a great mind for gol

Way back when . . .

Frank Keating on top scorers of 100s and the most runs in May

Unbeatable . . . Hobbs, 197 tons
PHOTOGRAPH: HULTON GETTY

GRAEME HICK's upcoming hundredth 100 — his century on Friday took his first-class tally to 99 — underlines the likelihood that he will be the last to achieve the milestone for a long time. Mike Gatting, on 91, seems stalled in his dotage and the target looks unattainably distant for the next on the list, David Boon (65), Mark Waugh (64) and Tim Robinson (62).

Hick will be the 24th to pass the post and it will be a stupendous achievement in this one-day age. He will also, surely, be the second youngest to make it after Walter Hammond and, having played fewer than 600 first-class innnings, he will have achieved it in fewer innings than anyone except Donald Bradman and Denis Compton. Such standard-setting has Hick's supporters weeping for his almost palsied inconsistency in the Test arena.

Hick's perverseness when it matters will probably keep us waiting for an age for him to post his celebrated centurion's century — rather in the manner of Jack Hobbs in 1925 when the Surrey champion was one short of W G Grace's then record of 126. For five whole weeks of high summer the press and newsreel cameras' caravan trundled round the shires after the great man. Hobbs hit forties and fifties, seventies and eighties . . . but not the precious century.

On August 13, a sweltering Saturday, the Movietone men cranked their camera on to the rickety roof of the old Taunton pavilion. Hobbs came in at about three o'clock. He would surely do it now; Somerset's bowling was the weediest on the circuit, its "spearhead" Raymond Robertson-Glasgow, medium-fast inswing and incomparable essayist.

"The Master was a mess of oerves," he wrote. "He was anxious; the strokes were calculating, even stuffy; he was twice nearly lbw, once at each end. At around 30 he gave a chance to wide mid-on, which went wrong, but at close of play he was in the early nineties [95]. Then Sunday, and more waiting, but nice for the Somerset gate [and the Movietone men's overtime].

"On Monday morning J J Bridges and I opened up. I bowled a no-ball in the first over, and Hobbs hit it to the square-leg boundary. Someone shouted I'd bowled the ball on purpose. I hadn't. Hobbs never needed presents at the wicket. In Bridges's second over Hobbs scored a single to leg for what he told me was his toughest century of the lot."

A steward brought out a glass of ginger wine and Hobbs shyly toasted himself — and at close of play, by all accounts, the newsreel men prevailed upon the great man to return to the middle and replay the famous push to leg because they had been still assembling their camera on the roof when he did it. I have seen the flickering monochrome film and the close-up shot seems of a different angle and quality altogether. But the maestro had passed WG and went on to the unbeatable target of 197 first-class 100s.

The 23 Hick will join are: Grace, Hayward, Hobbs, Mead, Woolley, Hendren, Sutcliffe, Sandham, Ernest Tyldesley, Bradman, Hammond, Hutton, Compton, Ames, Graveney, Cowdrey, John Edrich, Turner, Zaheer Abbas, Boycott, Amiss, Viv Richards and Gooch.

Of course, this very morning of June 1 has been the occasion when headlines have acclaimed an even rarer feat of batsmanship, and one in which the name of Hick is already logged in gold leaf: 1,000 first-class runs in May.

In fact, of the eight who have done it, five needed innings in April; the trio who reached four figures in May alone are Grace, Hammond and Lancashire's left-hander Charlie Hallows with his 232 against Sussex exactly 70 years ago yesterday.

He had gone to the wicket needing precisely 232 and in these pages next morning Neville Cardus, having called Charlie "good looking in a sporty sort of way", snorted: "The Sussex bowlers did their best to make his task easy. Was it cricket? Nobody would wish to be a spoilsport . . . still, the game is the game; besides, Hallows is quite capable of dealing with good bowling."

Ten springs ago Hick passed his 1,000 on May 27 but the remaining quartet — Tom Hayward (1900), Bill Edrich (1938), Glenn Turner (1973) and Bradman (1930 and 1938) — each posted the mark on the last day of the month. In his 1930 diary Bradman noted that he, too, had been bowled some "gimmes" on May 31: "Southampton. Light bad. I was 39 and wanted seven when rain started. Newman sportingly tossed up two slows. Immediately left field and play ceased. Dramatic. To Empire Theatre in evening."

Eight years later, and exactly three-score yesterday, Bradman (having already reached his 1,000) declared the Australians' innings against Middlesex at Lord's with half an hour left. Edrich, on 990 for the month, opened. "See if you can get them, Bill," said the Don, typically, "but we're not holding back. I've told Waite and McCabe to bowl flat out." Edrich nurdled his tremulous 10.

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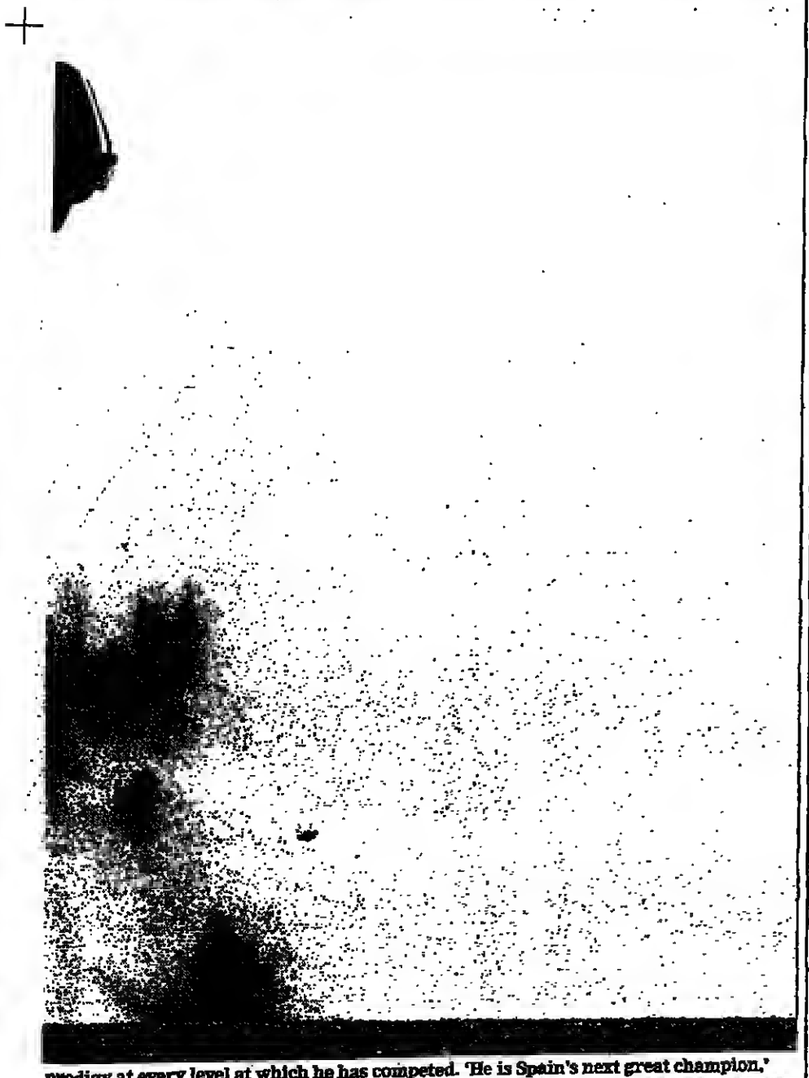

prodigy at every level at which he has competed. 'He is Spain's next great champion,' everything that a champion can put together'

PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN STEWART

Prodigies past and present

Young **Tom Morris** (below) won the Open Championship four times in succession from 1868, taking over as champion from his father Old Tom. He was 17 when he won his first title but his first significant win came at 13, when he won an exhibition match for the then enormous sum of £5. His career did not last. In 1875 his wife and new-

born son died and on Christmas Day that same year Young Tom did too — euphemistically of a broken heart, more realistically from drowning his sorrows too vigorously.

Jack Nicklaus (top), who began golf at the age of 11 and was to become the youngest US Amateur champion for 50 years, was precocity itself. At 17 he played in the Ohio Open, against all the state professionals, and after opening rounds of 76 and 70, took a private plane to play in an exhibition match with Sam Snead. The following day he came back and in the morning scored 64, in the afternoon 72 and won easily. He was on his way to becoming the greatest player of all time.

Sandy Lyle (above right), like Tiger Woods more recently, hit golf shots better than he was able to walk or talk at the time. Aged three he might have been better than Woods at that age. He was bigger certainly and his first ever golf shot not only got airborne but travelled 80 yards dead straight. His late father Alex confessed he got goose-pimples. Lyle went on to dominate every level of amateur golf he attempted. He also won a US Masters and an Open Championship.

Tiger Woods (bottom), according to his father Earl, could get the ball airborne while still having to use a high chair at table. Woods, in fact, became a

curiosity, appearing on television chat shows at the age of five, and the first picture of him swinging a club, in the book Training A Tiger, by Earl, was taken five days before his first birthday. He has since become the only golfer to win three US Boys titles, then three US Amateur titles, each in successive years.

Justin Rose (above) is the current amateur in the British ranks who raises the hopes of a nation. In America last year, aged 17, he became the youngest golfer to play for Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup and promptly hit his opening tee shot out of bounds. He settled down then to become the most successful visiting player and Peter McEvoy, the GB&I captain, feels he is the best amateur prospect since Lyle and Nick Faldo.

One-legged stand for make-believe

FAIR GAME

Julie Welch

AMONG the many irrational beliefs that crop up in sport, such as Tim Henman is going to win Wimbledon and Halifax Blue Sox is a proper name for a rugby league side, one of the most persistent is that a change of manager or chairman will guarantee an immediate leap in the fortunes of a football club. I have a better idea for Manchester City fans: make your results up.

The idea came to me the other day on reading allegations that tax officers are now so deluged by the new self-assessment forms that they are chucking them in the waste-paper basket and sending out demands for any old sum that comes into their heads, like 2p instead of £300,000.

If this principle was applied at Maine Road you would no longer have to wait around to find out who this month's manager was going to be. You could fix up an immediate return to the First Division, the Premiership in a couple of years, the Champions' League the one after that. The possibilities are infinite. And, while you are about it, you could make up United's results too.

Still on the subject of irrational beliefs, it seems Paul Gascoigne cherishes a few. He is obsessed with numbers, stepping on to the pitch only if fifth or eighth in the line, and tears ticket stubs in two. Apparently he also prays on aeroplanes, though this seems perfectly rational to me. How else do you stop the wings dropping off?

Much more intriguing is that Gascoigne reads only the last line in his horoscope. All the horoscopes I have ever read end with dreary lines like "early next week" and "the past behind". You might as well try to figure out your destiny by reading the last line of ingredients on a tin of cat food. But Gazza may have access to a different, more excitingly specific set of horoscopes, ones which end with lines such as "hat-trick against Germany" and "go easy on the kebabs". Maybe Andy Goram reads only the last lines, too. His say things like "with your trousers down".

ON THE matter of superstitions, it is amazing the number of people I have met in the last week who hold themselves personally responsible for Charlton's new Premiership status. One maintains that, if he had not untied his left shoelace, Richard Rufus would never have got the 85th-minute equaliser; and another insists that leaving his seat in extra-time to make an early dash to the car-park was no cowardly act of disappointed desertion but a cunning ploy to clinch Clive Mendonca's hat-trick. A friend, Reg, went to Wembley in the lucky red shirt he had been wearing since Charlton's first kick of the season. This sartorial policy had the added benefit of guaranteeing him plenty of space as the shirt had not been washed since.

I do not normally hold with this mumbo-jumbo but Charlton is our local club and they take the concept of "local" seriously. They run an excellent scheme called Football In The Community which in school holidays, for a very reasonable sum, will wrench your children from their diet of televised violence to spend their days indulging in wholesome football-related activities in the fresh air. They probably do missionary work in Erith and Sidcup as well.

Anyway I am attached to Charlton and this is why, at around a quarter to six last Monday in South-East London, while the rest of the family gathered round the television, a middle-aged woman could be seen standing on one leg in the garden — Charlton scored only if I left the house — and shouting querulously: "Can you remember if I had my shoe on or off when Mendonca got his second?"

"You're too late. It's 6-6."

"Maybe if I stand on the other leg this time."

"Try standing on the goal-line. You couldn't do any worse than Ilic."

While modesty — and fear of retribution from Sunderland supporters — would normally forbid me from claiming any credit for Michael Gray's unfortunate last kick of the game, I would like my efforts put on record. Charlton are already squaring up to the problem of trying to cram 33,000 supporters into a 20,000 ground in August and, in the matter of doling out season tickets, they should know who their real friends are.

Finally, a thought for Sunderland fans or, with the outlook pretty bleak right now, a few simple, heart-warming facts: you have a lovely stadium, the envy of many Premiership clubs; and you have a great side which next season, if there is any justice in the world, will take you to the top. You will, of course, have to go through all the joy and pain again but look at it this way: you don't support Manchester City.

Derby day in Moscow as the world moves to France

CENTRE STAGE

Pete Nichols

THESE have been hard days in Russia: the stock market fell 40 per cent in May; the central bank interest rates have been hoisted to 150 per cent; oil prices have gone into free fall; the rouble against the dollar is teetering on the point of collapse; and the Russian government owes about $140 million of hard currency debt, with reserves of only about $14.5 million. Still, there is always football.

Saturday is Cup Final day in Russia — a match between Spartak Moscow and Lokomotiv Moscow, two clubs who have brought some lustre to Russian football this year by reaching the semi-final stages of European club competitions. Only Italy, who mustered three finalists in Europe, could boast more. But if that sounds good, like so much in Russia it is tempered by the stark reality of context.

In national terms Russian football is in limbo. Though they beat France 1-0 in March and Turkey by the same score in April, they were beaten 3-1 by Poland in a friendly match at Chorzow last Wednesday and only 3,000 people bothered to watch. While the Spartak and Lokomotiv footballers are screwing in their studs for Saturday's game, the rest of the footballing world will be drawing breath for a slightly more significant event which starts fours days later. Russia, of course, did not qualify for the World Cup, losing to Italy 2-1 on aggregate in a play-off.

So, while France and the world are focused on the

GARY M PRIOR

Dmitri Alenichev . . . star of Spartak and target of Roma

sprint towards the game's greatest reward, the Russian football season — it is a summer sport there — will be jogging along as normal.

The cup, like most of their league encounters, should go Spartak's way. They have won five of the six titles since the new league was founded after the dismemberment of the Soviet Union; they beat Lokomotiv in their only meeting this year; and they are the one club in Russia who do not plead poverty. Their midfield trio of Russian internationals — Andrei Tikhonov, Illya Tsymbalar and Dmitri Alenichev — more than matched Internazionale in the Uefa Cup semi-final, though they did not have the equal of Ronaldo, who scored twice in Moscow to eliminate them. It was Spartak's third defeat in European cups at the semi-final stage.

The creative Alenichev has been the much publicised target of Roma but the Spartak club say the 25-year-old is going nowhere. In fact, though Yuri Nikiforov signed a four-year deal with PSV Eindhoven last week and 15 of the current national squad of 45 play abroad, the number is less than might be expected given the general penury in Russian football. This may, in part, have something to do with reputation.

At Millwall people still talk with something less than affection of the days of Sergei Yuran and Vasili Kulkov. The two Russians joined them in January 1996 on £5,000 wages, more than enough to pay off the mortgage on the *dacha* in the first week. But they did not endear themselves.

Yuran, now with Bochum in the Bundesliga, scored once in a dozen games and Kulkov, back with Spartak, hardly played. According to a Millwall official: "They did not understand a word when we said what time to be at training but understood completely when it came to bank accounts."

The final will be held at the renovated national stadium, Luzhniki, which holds more than 80,000 spectators. It was revamped prior to the World Cup game against Bulgaria, which Russia won 4-2, but the upgrading did not extend to the pitch. It rained throughout and the turf got so badly cut up a new pitch had to be laid.

In the normal run of things Lokomotiv and Spartak share a ground, which bears Lokomotiv's name. There is no great animosity between the clubs' supporters, perhaps because Lokomotiv do not have many (there were 4,000 at their last home game). The club are overshadowed by Spartak and their progress to the semi-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup, where they lost to Stuttgart, confounded even Russians.

Still, in Russia, success does not always bring rewards. Last June Larisa Nechayeva, the director-general of Spartak Moscow, was gunned down outside her *dacha*, a crime which bore the hallmarks of a contract killing. It came two months after Valentin Sych, head of the country's ice hockey federation, was shot in similar circumstances.

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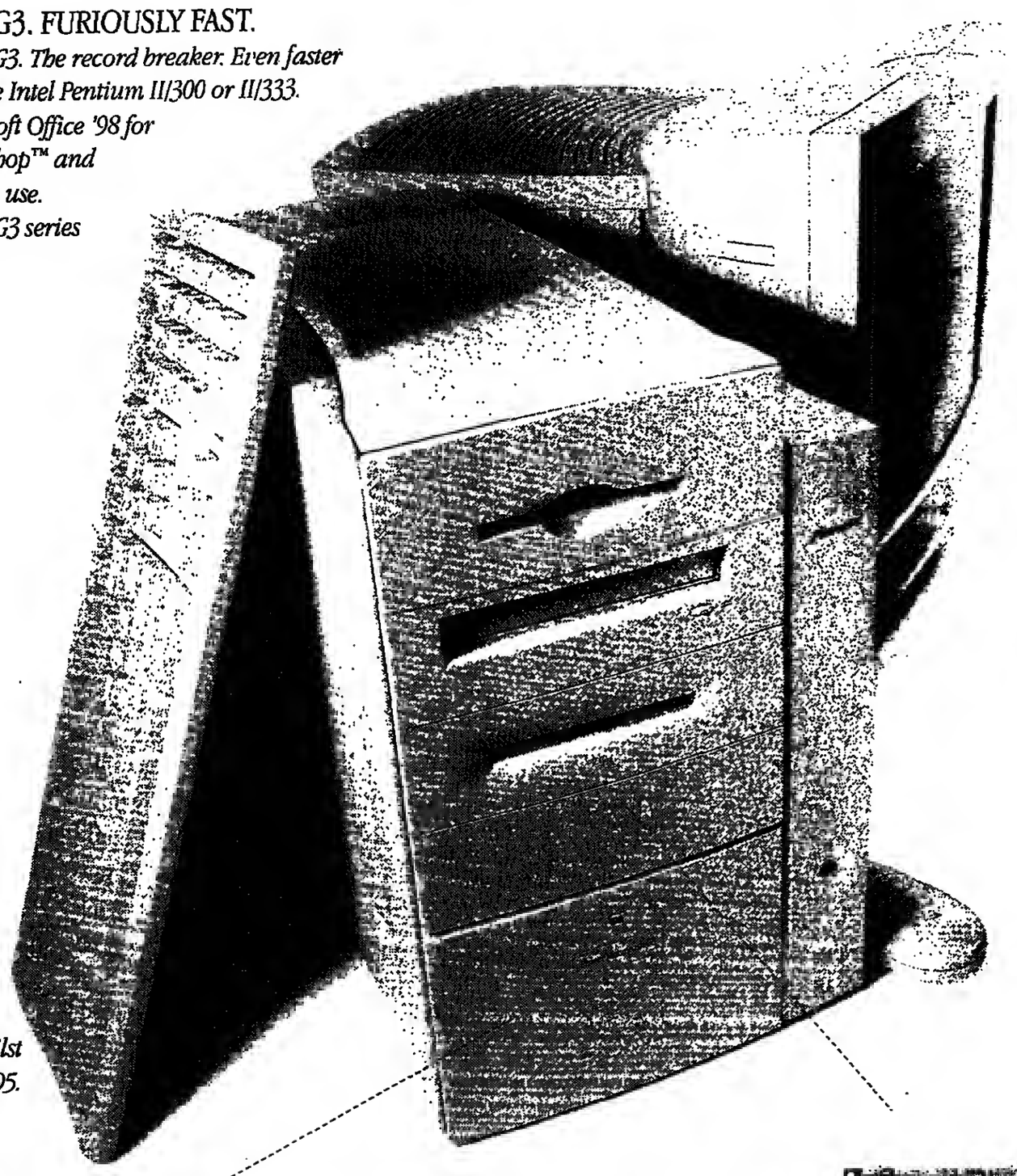

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Golf

Westwood burns his way to a record 61

Gordon Richardson in Hamburg

LEE WESTWOOD cut two strokes off the course record bere at Gut Kaden yesterday with an 11-under-par third round of 61 that put him one shot off the lead in the Deutsche Bank-SAP Open. Darreo Clarke, ominously improving with successive rounds of 67, 66 and 65, shares the lead on an 18-under-par 198 with Paul Broadhurst, who had missed his last two cuts but yesterday had a second consecutive 65 to go with his opening 68.

Sharing third place with Westwood is Mark O'Meara, the US Masters champion, whose 63 made him one of 62 players to break par in a field of 82.

Westwood was almost unstoppable, totting up an eagle and nine birdies — four in a row to polish off e homeward 30. It was the lowest round of his career and could easily bave been Eorope's first under 60, for he missed four hirdie putts inside eight feet.

"Yesterday," he explained, "my putting was so bad it was embarrassing and I switcbed to a new club and to the left-below-rlght method after missing from seven feet at the 1st today. I missed from five feet then and switched back again.

"What's also helped is Gary Player's tip at the Masters that I should work on my fitness. I've lost 5lh by cutting out chocolates, crisps, fizzy drinks and all the nice things and working on the bike and treadmlll in the physlo wagon. It probahly helped my stamina, so I could finisb with those four birdies."

Colin Montgomerie, the PGA champion, wbo started the day one off the lead shared by Clarke, Broadhurst and Bernhard Langer, could only eqoal the par of 72 and slipped to eight off the lead. To rub it in, his playing partner Broadhurst gained eix strokes on him in as few holes as he birdied five times. To rub it in more, Broadhurst's coach is Montgomerie's former mentor Bill Ferguson.

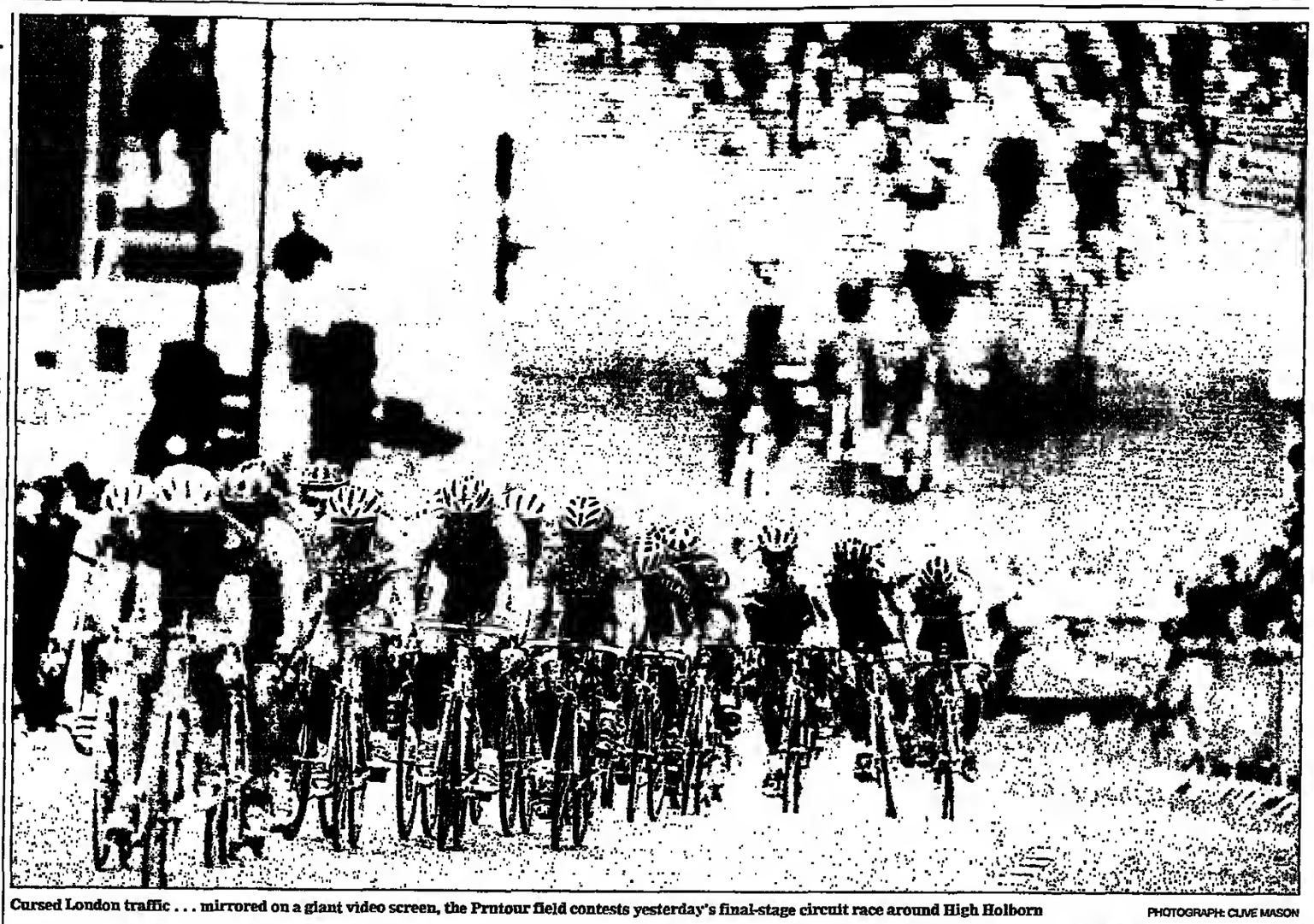
"I felt if I could knock in a few putts at the start it might niggle bim," said Broadhurst, "and I sank a 25-footer for a three on the 1st green, then hit a great drive to hirdie the 3rd, where be bit out of bounds. I've been blocking my tee shots badly but over the last two days everything has been fine and I drove it great to be out in 30 today."

Broadhurst failed to birdie the par-five 15th and 18th but got up and down over e bunker to save par at the last after a wayward epproach.

Clarke, who will more than double his season's winnings of £168,000 if he wins, is full of confidence after his Benson & Hedges victory a fortnight ago. He looks the man to beat. He had 31 putts in his 65, his fine play from tee to green contrasting with Langer's waywardness. The German, chasing his 11th victory on home soil, allowed three strokes to slip eway on the home straight to end five behind.

O'Meara risked the wrath of Jack Nicklaus to plt his skills against Europe's best. He knew the Golden Bear would be growling with displeasure at bis decisioo to bypass the Memorial event at Muirfield Village, Nicklaus's own course, but he was eager to experience the best of golf in the world outside the United States.

The field here lacks only two members of Europe's Ryder Cup side, Nick Faldo and Jesper Parnevik, and the performance of Broadhurst, ranked 57th, underlines the strength of the European tour. "There are dozens of fine players here and, if the weather stays the same, the winning score is going to be 23 or 25 under," said O'Meara. If he beats the lot, Nicklaus may forgive him.



Cursed London traffic . . . mirrored on a giant video screen, the Prutour field contests yesterday's final-stage circuit race around High Holborn PHOTOGRAPH: CLIVE MASON

O'Grady slips but has his day

William Fotheringham sees two Australians dominate the end of the Prutour

A MINOR hiccnp on the final corner deprived Stuart O'Grady of a possible third stage win of the Prutour, but the Australian's sixth place outside Prudential's headquarters was sufficient to seal the first tour victory of his young career from his GAN team-mate Cbrls Boardman.

O'Grady pulled a foot out of its pedal on the final left-hander 100 yards from the line at the end of the 50-mile circuit race around High Holborn and lost his momentum. "I had a perfect lead-out," he said, "but I couldn't quite achieve the fairy-tale ending."

The stage victory went to his compatriot Jay Sweet, already a winner in Blackpool and like O'Grady a probable starter in the Tour de France in July. Sweet, who rides for the French Bigmat team, was certain that O'Grady's misbap had not affected the stage's outcome. "I was that psyched np, I won the stage in the first 10 pedal strokes out of the corner. I bad been telling people all week that I was going to win this stage."

There was poetic justice in the verdict: on Saturday the roles of the two had been reversed, O'Grady wlnnlng the stage in Rochester at the end of 105 miles across Kent end Sussex in front of a crowd estimated at over 200,000, and afterwards Sweet was the one bemoaning his illinck after choosing tbe wrong gear and finishing fourth.

O'Grady's overall victory had seemed likely from the moment be won the stage to York last Monday, taking the red leader's jersey from Boardman who hinted that his 24-year-old team-mate would have a better chance of maintaining the lead for the next six stages.

"The team have always had confidence that I would make a good stage-race rider," said O'Grady, who has also sbown good form in the spring one-day classics since turning professional for GAN in 1995. Like Sweet he hails from Adelaide and is part of a little "cycling Australia" in the Toolouse area, living and training with half a dozen Anstrallan professionals based with European teams.

The Prutour also marked a welcome return to form for Boardman, who won the prologue time-trial in Stirling and the first stage in Newcastle. Later in the race he was prominent in making the pace for O'Grady in the stage finishes and was even seen collecting bottles of water from his support car to pass on to his team-mates.

Boardman is what the French call a *domestique de luxe*" and O'Grady will he only too willing to return the favour in future.

● Alex Zülle recorded the fastest time-trial in Giro d'Italia history yesterday in winning the 25-mile 15th stage in Trieste. The Swiss rider clocked 44min 38sec to extend his race lead to 2min 2sec over a new challenger, the Russian Pavel Tonkov.

Rugby Union

Lewsey delivers a parting shot

Ian Malin

JOSH LEWSEY, an England replacement in this Saturday's Test against Australia in Brisbane, has played his last match for relegated Bristol. The utility back will demand a formal apology from the club, who accused him of breach of contract.

The 21-year-old is expected to join sither Sale or Wasps next season. In Brisbane yesterday he said: "It doesn't require e rocket scientist to work out that I am not going back to Bristol."

Lewsey claims that Bristol demanded he pay back around £1,000 in university bursary fees and have withheld his four-figure May pay cheque. The club accused him of being unavailable for both Premiership play-off games against London Scottish, wbo condemned Bristol to relegation after 11 years in the top flight.

Lewsey said: "In terms of the money, it is not really an issue. What Bristol have done is to question my professionalism. They said I was breaching my contract in missing the play-offs but the contract stipulates that my Bristol University commitments take priority.

"I will be seeking a formal apology from tbe clnh. They've questioned my professionalism, and that hurts me. If you ask any coach who knows me, then they are all aware of my attitude. I've always trained hard, always putting in more work than was requested."

Lewsey, who had been taking physiology exams, denied taking time off for personal training despite declaring no interest in the play-offs. He added: "I just wanted to do some light exercise in between exams rather than just stay shut up in my bedroom."

Australia, meanwhile, have suffered an injury scare with their captain John Eales needing treatment on a damaged wrist, thought to be tendinitis. Their coach Rod Macqueen has summoned John Welborn as cover for the lock.

Macqueen said: "Obviously there is a concern because we have flown a player in but we do hope it's nothing more than a precaution."

Moseley'e wing Oarragh O'Mahony will be flying to South Africa as a replacement for James Topping, who is heading home after cracking a bone in his shoulder on Saturday. Topping scored Ireland's first two tries in the 48–35 win against Boland in Wellington.

O'Mahony is needed for next Saturday'e game against Western Province. Ireland play South Western Districts in George on Wednesday. Ireland's manager, Donal Lenihan said that the centre Jonathan Bell, who pnlled a hamstring on Saturday, may not play again in the seven-match tour.

Lenihan said: "We will only know by Wednesday whether Jonathan will be able to play again on tour but we are not asking for a replacement yet."

The prop Reggie Corrigan, who injured his back, will not be considered for the match against South Western Districts but should be fit for Saturday.

Scotland, thrashed last week by Fiji, put their tour back on track with a comprehensive 42–13 victory over Victoria.

Rowen Shepherd, who has played for Scotland at full-back, will be paired in the centre with Gregor Townsend for the match against New South Wales Country XV tomorrow. The flanker Simon Holmes is doubtful with an ankle sprain. Adam Roxburgh is standing by.

Blackadder's men ride their luck

CANTERBURY's captain Todd Blackadder said his side had been fortunate to win the Super 12 final at Eden Park on Saturday. They beat Auckland Blues 20–13 with a last-minute try from James Kerr.

Kerr ended Anckland's hopes of a third successive title when, with the teams level, he pursued a chip by Andrew Mehrtens and capitalised on a fumble by the Blues' scrnm-half Ofisa Tonu'u.

"Wa were very lucky to win and get out of jail at the and thare," Blackadder said. Kerr concurred: "The bounce of the ball went our way a bit." Mehrtens, who converted the try, said: "We're very lucky and very privileged. Most of the game we weren't in it."

Rugby League

Super League: St Helens 18 Leeds 31

Harris hurries out of the bin to clinch win

Andy Wilson

LEEDS came through another stern test of their credentials to keep their 100 per cent record and preserve their two-point advantage over Wigan at the top of the Super League.

It was a very different St Helens team from the one that lost limply at Halifax last week, as after the shock dropping of Bobbie Goulding the other players responded positively to their coach Shaun McRae's demand that they should start earning their money. But Leeds, as in their previous two away fixtures, showed tbe quality and resolve to win, overcoming the absence through suspension of Adrian Morley and the additional handicap of losing Andy Hay and lestyn Harris to the sin-bin.

In a superb game of dazzling handling, blg hitting and breathless excitement it was nnfortunate that tbe result should be decided by a messy penalty try. The St Helens players and supporters were furious at the video referee's decision but he had no choice as Paul Atcheson was shown ripping the ball from Hay as the Leeds second-row forward was about to score. Graham Holroyd converted, as Harris was still in the bin, and Leeds were safe at 28–18 with 18 minutes to go. Harris returning to kick a penalty and a drop goal in the closing stages.

St Helens could not have made a better start, with good handling from Paul Sculthorpe and Andy Haigh allowtog Anthony Sullivan to open the scoring in the third minute. But for the oext 25 minutes it was downhill all the way, with Haigh having an especially torrid time.

Graham Murray, the Leeds coach, had clearly sent his team out to expose Saints' compressed defence and, after they had spread the ball wide on the second tackle for the second occasion, Harris dummied his way through and found Francis Cummins with a glorious pass. The winger did the rest, stepping inside a weak attempted tackle from Atcheson.

Leeds lost Hay to the sin-bin for a professional foul under his own posts whicb allowed Sean Long to bring Saints level at 6–6 but, as at Sbeffield leet week wben Adrian Morley was sent off, the Rhinos relished playing a man short. A long pass from Holroyd sent Brad Godden strolling inside Haigh on the Leeds left.

Haigh was badly out of position again when Leeds added a third try, from Hay, 10 minutes later. The young centre was immediately withdrawn and replaced by Karle Hammond. And Saints cut the deficit to four points at the interval when Tommy Martyn made a superb half-break and sent Chris Joynt over.

They were soon reduced to 12 men again as clever play from Hammond and Keiron Cunningham drove Paul Sterling to commit another professional foul. Harris looked suitably bemused when he was sent to the cooler as he had been nowhere near the incident, and Long kicked the penalty to make it 22–18. But Leeds stepped up their act when it mattered and surged to the other end for Hay's penalty try. They are going to take quite a lot of stopping.

● Wigan kept up the pressure at the top of the Super League as they gave Hull their sixth successive defeat. Wigan won 38–16 at The Boulevard, tries hy Neil Cowie, Simon Haughton and Jason Robinson giving them an unassailable lead by half-time. Their dominance was bammered home early in the second half wben Danny Moore scored the first of his two tries. Hull'e Fili Seru scored on the hour but Wigan's superiority was underlined as Gary Connolly and Moore scored further tries before a Logan Campbell consolation touchdown.

St Helens: Atcheson; C Smith, Haigh, Newlove, Sullivan; Martyn, Long; Goldspink, Cunningham, O'Neill, Joynt, Ferettini, Sculthorpe. **Substitutes:** Hammond, Davidson, Stewart, Anderson.
Leeds: Harris; Sterling, Blackmore, Godden, Cummins; Komp, Holroyd; Masella, Sheridan, Fleary, Hay, Farrell, Powell. **Substitutes:** Lawford, Mathiou, Si Hilaire, Glanville.
Referee: S Cummings (Widnes).

Salford 8 Castleford 18

Gregory brought down to earth

Andy Wilson

FOR Andy Gregory the view from the stand was depressingly similar to the one from the dugout in Salford's last home match, against Sheffield.

Gregory, in the first game of his five-month touchline ban, saw his team start well, with two tries in the first 14 minutes. But again they faded badly, conceding three tries as Castleford claimed their first away win of the season and their first in England for two years, last year's sole success having come in Paris.

"Tbat was dreadful," Gregory said later. "I don't know how it would have looked from the bench but it was absolutely dreadful from the stand. I felt like going bome."

Salford's defence was eonnd enongh but Josh White was anonymous in attack, leaving too mnch on the shoulders of Martin Crompton and David Hulme.

A kick by the winger Darren Rogers brought Salford's first try in the fourth minute and, when Scott Martin added a second after a strong surge from his fellow centre Nathan McAvoy, Gregory must have been enjoying the view. But Paul Southern, the prop who replaced the injured Andy Platt, converted neither; how Salford missed Steve Blakeley, also injured, and not only for his kicking.

Castleford had offered little, perhaps because they were adjusting to the changes their coach Stuart Raper had made after last week's 52–10 thrashing by Bradford. The most significant was Mike Ford's return at scrum-half, and his kick set up John Wells for their first try.

Brad Davis's conversion attempt was woeful, and also his last, as e hamstring injury to David Chapman forced Raper to give Jamie Benn his senior debut, and he kicked three out of three — the first a penalty for dissent from Rogers.

Cas scored again on half-time; Wells made inroads down the left and quick cross-field passing allowed Barrie-Jon Mather to crash through Rogers's tackle on the right.

The Yorkshire side extended the lead to 10 points within 12 minutes of the restart, Jason Critchley hursting through Crompton and sending Ford over.

Salford: Broadbent; Hasoon, Martin, McAvoy, Rogers; White, Crompton; Southern, Edwards, Eccles, J Faimalo, Bradbury, Hulme. **Substitutes:** Saveliio, Ferber, Randell, E Faimalo.
Castleford: Gay; Wells, Mather, Critchley, Chapman; Maloney, Ford, Sampson, Davis, McKell, Tallec, Harland, Vowles. **Substitutes:** Sykes, Orr, Smith, Benn.
Referee: C Morris (Huddersfield).

Rowing

Not so fab four lose way

Christopher Dodd in Munich

FOURTH place in tbe opening round of the World Cup has brought Britain's super four back to reality with a jolt. It was the first time that Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent had lost a championship race together since 1990 — 61 victories ago.

It was also the first defeat for the coxless four after 11 wins which began a year ago in Munich and swept up the 1997 World Cup and the world title. "Today was the difference between being very good and average," Redgrave said.

Redgrave and Pinsent were quick to dispel any notion that Luka Grubor, the substitute for the injured Tim Foster who put his right hand through a window three weeks ago, was to blame for sending them back to zero after six years of being anything but average. "The quality of crews we are up against compared with last year is a different kettle of fish," Pinsent said. "We would have needed a very good row to finish second and an excellent one to win."

With Redgrave moved to the No. 3 seat behind Pinsent at stroke after an unconvincing heat win on Friday, they were second at halfway but could not keep in touch with the Romanians, and the Germans and Poles also passed them.

The women's team excelled to put Great Britain in second place with 47 points to Germany's 52, Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop maintaining an unbeaten record in the pairs to take gold.

Hockey

Australia's women retain cup

Pat Rowley in Utrecht

AUSTRALIA maintained their dominance of the women's game by retaining the World Cup yesterday. They defeated the Netherlands 3–2 in the final here in front of a fiercely partisan crowd of 15,000.

It was a quality team performance by a side with many changes from their 1996 Atlanta Olympics gold medal team and being built op for the Sydney Games. Alyson Annan, their midfielder, was outstanding.

The young England team finished ninth, as they did four years ago, by beating Scotland 2–0 on Saturday with well-taken goals by the two Janes, Sixsmith and Smith.

Corners proved crucial for the England's men's team in a 2–1 victory over Canada on Saturday which took them into today's fifth-place match. The cornerman Calum Giles did not have many chances hut took two of them, ehowing great composure to score the decisive goal three minutes from time. England now have the chance to avenge their 7–5 pool match dsfeat by Pakistan.

Sport in brief

Athletics

Roger Black's plan to open his last season with a fast run in in Seville on Saturday were ruined when he failed to make it to the Spanish city, *writes Duncan Mackay*. The Olympic 400 metres silver medallist, who retires in September, was caught up in the Spanish air traffic controllers' strike and be decided to miss the race rather than face a long, tiring delay et Heathrow Airport.

Black now hopes to begin his summer campaign to Bratislava a week tomorrow, his last opportunity to make a case for a place in Britain's team for the European Cup at the end of this month.

Motorcycling

Alex Criville of Spain beld off Michael Doohan on another Honda to win the French 500cc Grand Prix at Le Castellet yesterday and take e two-point lead over the Australian world champion in this season'e race for the title. Another Spaniard, Carlos Checa, looked set to finish second but on the final lap Doohan swept inside him as be drifted wide on a corner.

Ice Hockey

Goals in the third period from Craig Berube and Jo Juneau and a Stanley Cup record-equalling fourth shut-out in one season by the netminder Olaf Kolzig gave Washington Capitals a 2–0 win over the Sabres in Buffalo, *writes Vic Batchelder*. Capitals lead the semi-final series 3–1 and victory at home in the fifth game tomorrow will put them in the final for the first time in the club's 24-year history.

Chess

The unfancied Alexei Shirov has a 3½–2½ lead over Vlad Kramnik after six of the 10 games in their World Championship final eliminator in Cazorla, Spain, *writes Leonard Barden*. Kramnik was a pawn ahead for much of the fiftb game until Shirov's resourceful defence earned a 65-move draw, then they drew again yesterday in 18 moves. The winner of the series will challenge Garry Kasparov for his world title in October.

American Football

England Monarchs gave their fans something to cheer about at Crystal Palace yesterday when they beat Barcelona Dragons 17–5, *writes Mike Carlson*. The quarter-back Josh La Rocca killed off the Oragons' hopes of a place in the World Bowl final with touchdown passes of 20 yards to Alan Allen and 31 to Reggie Jones. A 43-yard field goal by Don Silvestri completed the Monarchs' scoring.

Racing

Cash lands spoils with a dream run

Chris Hawkins

CASH ASMUSSEN, so often criticised for tactical ineptitude, rode a brilliant race to win the French Derby on Dream Well at Chantilly yesterday.

Saratoga Spriogs, the mount of Mick Kinane, was a disappoioting fourth and there must be serious doubts oow about whether he will run at Epsom on Saturday.

Asmusseo produced his mount right on the line to head the favourite Croco Rouge and give trainer Pascal Bary the first two home. Sestino finished third.

Passing the Chateao and swinging into the straight Dream Well was almost last, but this Sadler's Wells colt, blinkered for the first time, then embarked on an amazing slalom run.

Eveotually switched to the inside, he was set alight by Asmussen a furlong out and produced a withering burst which cut down Croco Rouge, who had looked home and hosed, in the final strides.

"It doesn't get much better than that," said Asmussen, riding his third French Derby winoer io the Niarchos colours. "He's a laid-back horse and we didn't think he was as good as Croco Rouge, but he's come oo a ton."

Dream Well was unraced as a two-year-old and by the way he won here could develop into a champion mile-and-a-half colt. Croco Rouge and Dream Well are still in the Vodafone Derby, although it would be asking a lot to run them again. Croco Rouge is owned by Wafic Said, who already has a Derby represeotative in Border Arrow.

Yesterday's race was run at a good pace with Makaruka setting a searching gallop tracked by Prolix, who was kicked on turning for home by Darryll Holland.

Prolix's attempt to steal it fouodered wheo he was swamped at the furlong pole, but he ran a fine race to finish fifth. Godolphin's Mudeer trailed in 11th.

Saratoga Springs was never well placed from his outside draw and had plenty do with three to run, although the same can be said of Croco Rouge and Dream Well. Uolike the first two, he could not quicken so spectacularly and was made to look one-paced.

"The ground was cut up a bit down the back and he was running a little lazily," explained Kinane. "Wheo Croco Rouge weot by him he seemed to get a bit disheartened before running oo again."

Saratoga Springs's run rather devalues the form of the Dante Stakes, in which City Honours ran second and Border Arrow third.

But it is dangerous to draw hard and fast conclusions as Border Arrow finished third to King Of Kings in the 2,000 Guineas, the form of which was given a double boost yesterday wheo the seveoth, Almutawakel (Frankie Dettori), won the Group One Prix Jean Prat at Chantilly and the ninth, Central Park (Daragh O'Donohoe), took the Italian Derby — both trained by Saeed bin Suroor for Godolphin. British-trained runners filled three of the first four places in Rome. The German colt Nadour Al Bahr was second with Mutawwaj (Godolphin) third and the Paul Cole-trained Mowbray fourth.

O'Brieo will give King Of Kings and Second Empire a final gallop tomorrow. They will work separately, ridden by Kinane, who will then decide which one he will partner at Epsom.

The form of King Of Kings looks red hot, but there is a big stamina doubt about him and he is out to 6-1 from 5-1 with Ladbrokes, who quote Second Empire favourite at 7-4 with a run. They then bet: 11-4 Cape Verdi, 9-2 Greek Dance, 6-1 King Of Kings, 9-1 City Honours and Gulland.

Pat Eddery rides Napoleon's Sister for David Elsworth in the Vodafone Oaks oo Friday. Godolphin's Stowaway misses the Coronatioo Cup the same day, having sustained an injury.

Magnifique . . . Cash Asmussen returns on Dream Well after their French Derby triumph PHOTOGRAPH: ALLSPORT

Leicester Jackpot card

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
2.00	High Premium	High Premium
2.30	Sapphire Ring	Sapphire Ring
3.00	Bargash	Ice Age
3.30	Act Defiant	Saligo
4.00	Boring Gifts	Generous Rosi
4.30	Wince	—
5.00	Venetian Scene	Keepsake

Right-handed. 1¼m track with 40[illegible] run-in. Straight mile.
Going: Good, good to firm in places. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: Middle to high numbers best up to 1m.
Long distance travellers: Zydeco (4.00) & Venetian Scene (5.00) M Pipe, Devon 176 miles.
Hero: The Hawk (3.00) M Dods, Co. Durham 158 miles.
Seven day winners: 5.00 Phantom Waters.
Blinkered first time: None. Visored: 2.00 Gromes.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J.Jumps.

2.00 SWANNINGTON CLAIMING STAKES
1m £2,637 (12 declared)

101 1 10[illegible] Alamein (8) C Nichols 5-10-0 — Alex Greaves 4- 84
102 2 11[illegible] Regretty (17) (C) (D) S Bowery 6-9-13 — W Ellis — —
103 3 [illegible] Mangiplane (207) K Mason 5-9-3 — R Cochrane — —
104 1 Eric The King ([illegible]) R Simpson 7-9-6 — R Fenton — —
105 1 30- Redwood (216) S C Williams 3-9-3 — T G McLaughlin 80
106 6 [illegible] High Premium (15) (D) R Fahey 10-9-2 — K Fallon 4 [illegible]
107 3 [illegible] Fleetwood (25) S Bennett 6-9-0 — R Studholme (7) — —
108 12 [illegible] I Can't Remember (6) (D) P Evans 4-9-0 — J F Egan 87
109 7 [illegible] Gromes (14) J S Moore 4-9-0 — F P Murphy (3) 4- —
110 4 [illegible] Mercury (7) (D) S Keith 5-8-12 — D Wright 4- —
111 2 [illegible] Seaside (192) Mrs A E Johnson 8-8-12 — L Dettori — —
112 5 44 Alarme (84) S Pulling 3-8-3 — T Sprake 80

Betting: 11-4 High Premium, 7-2 Alamein, 9-2 I Can't Remember, 8-1 Regretty, Mercury, 10-1 Mangiplane, Gromes, 12-1 Alarme, 16-1 Redwood.

FORM GUIDE - Alamein: Held up, mod sixth over 1f out, ran on, 3rd of 13, 1[illegible] behind Village Native M Andrews 1m [illegible] Regretty: Behind final 2f, 16th of 21, 17l behind Premier Generation at Newbury 1m2f hcap, 6d-Fm. High Premium: Prominent, carried on beaten finish, 6th of 22, 23l behind Dynamic Prandiere at Ripon 1m soft, 6d. I Can't Remember: Hesitant on parade, 3l out, soon ridden and never reached leaders, 6th of 16, 29l behind Tinkerman at Redcar 1m [illegible], 6d-Fm. Gromes: Hesitant and hard ridden 2f out, one pace final furlong, 5th of 18, 3l behind Jack Dancer at Windsor 1m stakes, 6d-Fm. Mercury: Chased leaders, ridden and weakened 3f out, last of 10, 30l behind Pons Bid at Lingfield 1m6f stakes, 7d. Seaside: Started slowly, hesitant 4f out, weakened quickly 3f out, last of 6, 46l behind Night Trip at Lingfield 1m6f stakes, 7d. Alarme: Chased leaders, every chance 2f out, one pace, 4th of 11, 6l behind Scorpio Star at Southwell 7f sell, AW.

2.30 SILVER PHEASANT FILLIES' STAKES 3YO
7f £4,872 (4 declared)

201 1 120-0[illegible] Jay Gee (9) G Margarson 9-2 — F Dettori 80
202 2 6[illegible] Khayyam (228) E Dunlop 9-0 — G Fallon 87
203 3 1[illegible] Sapphire Ring (20) (C) (D) R Charlton 8-9 — T Sprake 8[illegible]
204 2 [illegible] Dim Ofis (17) E Pelling 9-5 — J Quinn —

Betting: 2-1 Sapphire Ring, 9-4 Khayyam, 11-4 Jay Gee, 7-2 Dim Ofis.

FORM GUIDE - Jay Gee: Led and headed over 1f out, weakened final furlong, 7th of 11, 15l behind Emitom Pupil at Haydock, 6f hcap, 5d-Gd. Khayyam: Chased leaders, weakening when slightly hampered inside final furlong, 6th of 17, 8l behind Decisionon at Newmarket, 6f hcap, 2d-Gd. Sapphire Ring: Prominent over 3f, 5th of 6, 14l behind Island Sage at Kempton, 6f 20y, 5d. Dim Ofis: Prominent 4f, last of 7, 15l behind Bold Edge at Newbury 6f stks, 6d-Fm.

3.00 HICKLING SELLING HANDICAP
6f £2,952 (22 declared)

301 1 [illegible] Ski Rhapsody (57) (C) B Pollar, 4-10-0 — T Sprake —
302 2 [illegible] Nightingale Song (234) (D) M Meade 4-9-13 — R Sweeney —
303 3 [illegible] Silver Ledger (21) (D) (BF) Mrs N Macauley 9-9-12 — T Quinn 1[illegible]
304 7 [illegible] Hannah's Father (8) (D) S Bough 6-9-11 — G Bellamy 65
305 7 [illegible] Bashful Brave (14) (D) S Bough 7-9-10 — G Mitchell 63
306 7 [illegible] Never Think Twice (20) (D) P S McEntee 5-9-9 — S Adams ★ —
307 [illegible] The Frisky Farmer (25) (CD) M S McTomer 5-9-8 — C Lowther 70
308 [illegible] Tashkent (237) R Simpson 5-9-8 — R Brown —
309 2 [illegible] Harmons Rex (20) (D) J Nichols 4-9-8 — Alex Greaves 67
310 9 [illegible] Napoleon Star (10) (D) Miss J Craze 7-9-7 — S Webster ★ 78
311 7 [illegible] Captain Cuckl (25) (D) D Chapman 7-9-7 — T Williams ★ —
312 [illegible] Alabad (263) K Hodges 5-9-6 — S Cochrane 65
313 [illegible] Bargash (513) (D) (BF) A Bailey 6-9-6 — A Mackay ★ —
314 [illegible] Stickyork (17) D Shaw 5-9-6 — S Wood (3) 69
315 [illegible] Anetta (7) J A Harris 4-9-5 — S Fallon —
316 [illegible] Millenium (4) M Jarvis 6-9-4 — A Whelan 67
317 [illegible] Hyde Superior (209) A Bailey 4-9-3 — F Norton 8[illegible]
318 [illegible] Ice Age (25) (D) R Williams 4-9-2 — G Biggs ★ 6[illegible]
319 [illegible] Henry The Hawk (25) (D) M Dods 7-9-3 — G Duffield 65
320 [illegible] U-No-Hurry (24) (CD) R Hollinshead 5-9-3 — A McCarthy (3) —
321 [illegible] Sparkling Harry (28) Miss L Siddall 4-9-2 — J F Egan 62
322 [illegible] Southdown Cyrano (294) P Butler 3-9-0 — F Lynch —

Betting: 11-4 Ice Age, 7-1 Henry The Hawk, Stickyork, 8-1 Anetta, Elton Ledger, 10-1 Nervous Rex, 12-1 Hannah's Father, Millenium, Hyde Superior.

FORM GUIDE - Elton Ledger: Headway 4f out, ridden over 1f out, kept on towards finish, 2nd of 9, 13l behind Italian Partner at Southwell, 7f claim, 6d. Stickyork: Chased winner for pole, no impression final 2f, 6th of 17, 30l behind Mulberry Tree at Nottingham, 6f hcap, 6d. Anetta: Chased leaders, effort over 2f out, beaten approaching final furlong, 6th of 14, 7l behind Kaiser at Redcar, 7f sell, 6d-Fm. Millenium: In touch, kept on final 2f, one pace to challenge, 5th of 13, 20l behind Adams Sensation at Ayr, 6f hcap, 6d. Ice Age: Middle off, held on towards finish, beating Star Style 1l, 12th of 16, 2[illegible]l behind Tinkerman at Ripon, 6f hcap, 6d. Henry The Hawk: Chased leaders, stayed on well to lead well inside final furlong, beating Ballantine Boy 3l, with Bassett's Father 2l, 7th of 16, 7l behind Ice Age at Ripon, 6f hcap, 6d. Hyde Superior: Gave 12lb best, ran 22l, at Hamilton 5f hcap, 5th. U-No-Hurry: One pace from setting, 4th of 11, 13l behind Monica's Choice at Carlisle 7f claim, 6d-Sft.

3.30 49'S OLD DALBY H'CAP 3YO (SHOWCASE RACE) -
1m 2f £5,034 (17 declared)

401 5 [illegible] Sharp Cracker (10) M Johnston 9-7 — B Holland 87
402 1 [illegible] Green Jacket (23) J Cosgrove 9-6 — W R Swinburn 85
403 7 [illegible] Act Defiant (18) J Gale 9-4 — T Quinn 84
404 [illegible] Good Catch (249) P R Webber 9-2 — K Fallon 84
405 [illegible] Saligo (18) H Morrison 9-1 — G Duffield 8[illegible]
406 1[illegible] Saddlers' Rock (203) B Hills 9-1 — M Hills 82
407 2 [illegible] Charity (208) J Jenkins 9-13 — J Quinn —
408 4 [illegible] Cape Aux Folles (280) J Pitman 9-13 — P Clarke (7) 83
409 1 [illegible] Still Waters (28) R Charlton 8-13 — T Sprake 84
410 [illegible] Wild Canary (28) Lord Huntingdon 8-12 — W Ryan ★ 84
411 1 [illegible] Pride Of My Heart (13) R Hannon 8-11 — L Dettori 86
412 [illegible] Northwood Spirit (25) B Morgan 8-7? — N Carlisle 86
413 [illegible] Praetorian Gold (31) R Hannon 8-10 — Dane O'Neill 87
414 [illegible] Midsummer Romance (17) G Moohan 6-7 — P Robinson 79
415 [illegible] Desert Spa (22) P Harris 8-4 — C Lowther 82
416 2 [illegible] Half A Kracker (11) T Fahey 8-4 — J Quinn 83
417 [illegible] Dry Lightning (16) H Dell 8-4 — M Fenton 88

Hills betting: 7-1 Still Waters, Saligo, Sharp Cracker, 8-1 Green Jacket, 10-1 Act Defiant, Saddlers' Rock, Wild Canary, 12-1 Pride Of My Heart, Half A Kracker, 14-1 Praetorian Gold, Good Catch, 16-1 Desert Spa, Dry Lightning, Northwood Spirit, 20-1 Midsummer Romance.

Ladbrokes betting: 6-1 Still Waters, 7-1 Sharp Cracker, Saligo, 8-1 Green Jacket, 10-1 Act Defiant, 11-1 Saddlers' Rock, Pride Of My Heart, 12-1 Good Catch, Half A Kracker, 16-1 Wild Canary, Northwood Spirit, Desert Spa, Dry Lightning, 18-1 Midsummer Romance, Praetorian Gold.

Tote betting: 10-3 Still Waters, Saligo, Sharp Cracker, 9-1 Green Jacket, Act Defiant, 10-1 Saddlers' Rock, 12-1 Wild Canary, 14-1 Half A Kracker, Pride Of My Heart, Desert Spa, Dry Lightning, Praetorian Gold, Northwood Spirit, 16-1 Good Catch, 18-1 Midsummer Romance.

FORM GUIDE - Sharp Cracker: In touch, headway over 2f out, every chance inside final furlong, kept on well, 2nd of 16, 1l behind Chrysolite at Pontefract 1m hcap, 6d-Fm. Green Jacket: Ridden over 2f out, good headway final furlong, ran on, 6th of 10, 4l behind Chrysolite at Lingfield 1m11f hcap, 6d. Act Defiant: Headway over 3f out, ridden over 1f out, one pace, 2nd of 9, 8l behind Grimshaw at Brighton 1m4f mdn, Fm. Saligo: Led 1f out, ran on well, beating Mugwump 1½l at Salisbury, 1m hcap, Fm. Still Waters: Always prominent, every chance well over 1f out, soon ridden, no response, 2nd of 13, 1½l behind Captain Log at Warwick 1m mdn, 6d. Wild Canary: Led over 2f out well headed and weakened 1f out, 5th of 7, 14l behind Escorted Hall at Warwick 1m3f hcap, 6d. Praetorian Gold: Tracked leaders, even chance 2f out, weakened quickly, 21st of 24, 23l behind Cathy Quest at Newmarket, 1m2f hcap, 6d-Gd. Desert Spa: Chased leaders, every going 4f out, soon beaten, 7th of 11, 16l behind Jacquard Dancer at Haydock 1m3f hcap, 5d-Sft. Dry Lightning: Chased leaders and weakened and eased final 2f, 14th of 15, 23l behind Mike Salve Dancer at Thirsk 1m hcap, 6d-Gd.

4.00 LEVY BOARD MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
1m 4f £4,110 (12 declared)

501 [illegible] 32-25 Boring Gifts (16) P Cole 9-0 — T Quinn 85
502 [illegible] 5 Coral Seeker (19) G Wragg 9-0 — M Hills —
503 [illegible] 5 Count de Money (46) A Jarvis 9-0 — G Sweeney —
504 [illegible] 0 Farther Bleak (23) Mrs H Walton 9-0 — J Tate —
505 [illegible] 0-2 Generous Rosi (19) J Dunlop 9-0 — M E Sanderson 80
506 [illegible] 0- Generous Tarrus (228) H Candy 9-0 — Paul Eddery 85
507 [illegible] Ta-Lum (4 Stone 9-0 — R Cochrane —
508 [illegible] 622-2 Zydeco (34) M Pipe 9-0 — G Fallon 85
509 [illegible] 0-4 Alborelino (18) W Jarvis 8-9 — J Quinn 78
510 [illegible] 45 Big Buyer (23) I Balding 8-9 — L Dettori 79
511 [illegible] 0 Rosie Jacques (18) N Littmoden 8-9 — A Daly (3) —
512 [illegible] 00 Toy Box (18) G Bravery 8-9 — S Whitworth 7[illegible]

Betting: 11-4 Generous Rosi, 9-2 Zydeco, 11-2 Boring Gifts, Ta-Lum, 6-1 Alborelino, 8-1 Count de Money, Generous Tarrus, Big Buyer, 20-1 Coral Seeker.

FORM GUIDE - Coral Seeker: Headway 5f out, driven along over 4f out, kept close over 3f out, eased, last of 6, 40l behind Churlish Charm at Newmarket, 1m4f mdn, 6d-Fm. Count De Money: Driven along and outpaced 7f out, never dangerous, 5th of 9, 33l behind Ethrayt at Thirsk, 1m4f mdn, 6d-Sft. Farther Bleak: Started slowly, always behind, 11th of 14, 43l behind Opportune at Beverley 1m2f sell, 6d. Generous Rosi: Always prominent, led 2f out to over 1f out, not quicken, 2nd of 16, 3l behind Royal Anthem, with Boring Gifts (lively) 5th, 8th of 8, at Newbury 1m2f mdn, 6d-Fm. Generous Tarrus: Never near to challenge, 11th of 22, 16l behind Border Arrow at Newmarket 1m mdn, 6d-Sft. Zydeco: Stumbled badly start, soon chasing leader, led 3f out until well inside final furlong, beaten 2l, 2nd of 11, 4l behind Pasadi Pam at Bath 1m2f mdn, 5ft. Alborelino: Held up, headway 6f out, one pace final 3f, 4th of 10, 7l behind Global M at Salisbury 1m2f 18y mdn, Fm. Big Buyer: Always prominent, ridden 4f out, one pace, 5th of 12, 10l behind Mordaid at Lingfield 1m2f mdn, 6d. Toy Box: Always behind, 7th of 9, 13l behind Sharara, with Rosie Jacques (nr 3lb) 8th, 16l at Salisbury 1m2f 18y mdn, Fm.

4.30 EBF WOLVEY MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES 2YO
5f £3,600 (8 declared)

601 (4) Blue Melody D Loder 8-11 — L Dettori —
602 (7) Faith Again C Wall 8-11 — Dane O'Neill —
603 (8) Morning Music R Hannon 8-11 — R Hills —
604 (5) Price of Passion D Arbuthnot 8-11 — S Whitworth 5
605 (2) 0 Sharp Love (16) M Ryan 8-11 — F Norton —
606 (6) Talanta G Wragg 8-11 — M Hills —
607 (3) Trina's Pet B Meehan 8-11 — S Sanders (7) —
608 (1) Where H Dell 8-11 — S Fallon —

Betting: 7-4 Wince, 3-1 Blue Melody, 9-2 Talanta, 8-1 Morning Music, 10-1 Trina's Pet, 12-1 Faith Again, Price Of Passion, Sharp Love.

5.00 JOHN FERNELEY FILLIES' HANDICAP
1m 4f £3,036 (14 declared)

1 (8) 466-00 Marathon Maid (10) R Fahey 4-10-0 — S Wood 87
2 (3) 1-5052 Venetian Scene (7) (CD) M Pipe 4-9-12 — J Quinn 86
3 (11) 5550/5 Miss Pin Up (24) (D) R McGhin 9-9-10 — G Carter —
4 (9) 00-152 Flying Flip (7) B Morgan 4-9-3 — R Cochrane 85
5 (6) 4030-6 Miss Vita (24) R Williams 4-9-1 — M Hills 82
6 (1-) 405500 Our Way (16) N Britain 4-9-0 — P Robinson —
7 (11) 6545-2 Marchan Tyne (32) E Alston 5-9-0 — S Fallon 84
8 (5) 045-44 Stone Beck (13) J Jefferson 3-9-0 — M Ryan 85
9 (3) 58-441 Phantom Waters (7) (5lb ex) (D) R J Houghton 3-9-0 — C Rutter 79
10 (10) 0126-6 Bewitching Lady (14) O Arbuthnot 4-8-9 — S Whitworth 78
11 (7) 0335-2 Hill Farm Dancer (17) (D) W Brisbourne 7-8-9 — S Whitworth 87
12 (4) 50-554 Keepsake (14) (D) M Usher 4-8-9 — D Street ★ 8[illegible]
13 (13) 0-0000 Limerick Lady (10) (D) B Rothwell 4-8-4 — M Fenton —
14 (12) 346-16 Lucy Tully (27) (D) (BF) J Pearce 7-7-12 — Dale Gibson 8[illegible]

Betting: 5-1 Marchan Tyne, 6-1 Venetian Scene, 7-1 Flying Flip, Phantom Waters, Hill Farm Dancer, 8-1 Stone Beck, Keepsake, 10-1 Lucy Tully, Marathon Maid.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
Paul Eddery	37	147	25.2	-8.79	G Bravery	27	162	16.7	+51.65
L Dettori	34	145	23.4	+15.21	J Bradley	25	124	20.2	+47.50
K Fallon	16	101	15.8	-1.75	B Hills	21	72	29.2	+4.08
T Quinn	18	145	11	-34.55	R Cecil	14	60	23.3	-7.53
J Reid	14	109	12.8	-38.80	M Stoute	13	111	11.7	-38.48
J Weaver	13	81	16	+38.50	P Cole	10	86	11.6	+25.00
G Carter	13	134	9.7	-41.37	M Ryan	10	122	8.24	-50.50
					G Harwood	10	122	8.24	-50.50

KEEPING TRACK
0891 222 +

	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
LEICESTER	771	781
HAMILTON	772	782
WINDSOR (E)	773	783
THIRSK (E)	774	784
HEREFORD (E)	775	785

ALL COURSES COMMENTARY 0891 222 780
ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 222 790
CALLS COST 50p PER MIN AT ALL TIMES. TIS PLC, AVALON HOUSE, LONDON EC2A 4PJ.
The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Windsor evening programme

	RON COX	TOP FORM
6.30	Jalb	Wellaki
7.00	Maazoom	Elba Magic
7.30	Almasi	Almasi
8.00	Midhish Two	Cheyenne Gold
8.30	Admirals Secret (nb)	Admirals Secret
9.00	The Gamboller	The Gamboller

Figure-eight track of 1¼m, though only right-hand turns occur in races up to 1m7½yds. Virtually straight 5f & 6f tracks.
Going: Good to firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: High numbers favoured over 5f & 6f.
Long distance travellers: Unilus (6.30) & African Sun (8.30) M Chapman, Lincs 157 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 7.00 Maazoom; 8.30 Mary Cull; 9.00 General Monck. Visored: 8.30 Haydn James, Quibbling.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing.

6.30 HAVANA HORSE (UK) H'CAP
1m 2f £3,961 (16 declared) SKY

1 (15) 2U4-0 Crazy Chief (78) (C) P Cole 5-10-0 — David O'Neill (7) —
2 (3) 31464- Titta Ruffo (241) (D) B Meehan 4-10-0 — M Tebbutt 86
3 (6) /00-00 Unitas (18) (CD) M Chapman 5-9-13 — S Carson (7) —
4 (16) 30-001 Brandon Jack (21) (CD) I Balding 4-9-10 — R Sadeghian 84
5 (14) 0-0010 Stone Ridge (17) (CD) R Hannon 6-9-10 — Dane O'Neill 83
6 (9) 6000-4 Greenway Ray (116) W Musson 4-9-9 — P Shea (7) 87
7 (6) 44-036 Cro's Pearl (15) (D) M Tompkins 4-9-8 — D Biggs 85
8 (4) 0-0003 Wellaki (12) J Gosden 4-9-8 — L Dettori ★ 90
9 (11) 0630- High Shot (401) (D) R Rowe 6-9-4 — W J O'Connor —
10 (12) 530-00 Snow Partridge (21) P Cole 4-9-1 — A Whelan —
11 (10) 52440/ Typhoon Lad (1580) S Dow 5-8-12 — P Doe (5) —
12 (1) 0307-2 Jalb (28) P Murphy 4-8-10 — S Drowne 85
13 (7) 00/00 Fallah (17) (BF) Lady Herries 4-8-8 — Paul Eddery —
14 (13) 000-00 V I P Charlie (139) J Jenkins 4-8-8 — S Sanders 82
15 (8) 033000 Poker School (8) N Callaghan 4-8-4 — F Lynch ★ —
16 (2) 0500-0 Proud Brigadier (14) M R Bosley 10-7-10 — A Nicholls (7) 79

Betting: 7-2 Wellaki, 6-1 Brandon Jack, 7-1 Fallah, 8-1 Titta Ruffo, Stone Ridge, 12-1 Cro's Pearl, 14-1 Crazy Chief, Snow Partridge, Jalb.

7.00 LOVELL WHITE DURRANT H'CAP 3YO
1m 67yds £3,193 (18 declared) SKY

1 (13) 00036- Long Island (209) K Ivory 9-7 — W J O'Connor 84
2 (10) 400- Bella d'Alba (238) M Bell 9-3 — M Henry 86
3 (11) 000-00 Bedouzan (21) J Akehurst 9-2 — G Bigg 85
4 (15) 000-50 River Boat (21) (BF) N Tompkins 9-1 — R Ffrench 86
5 (14) 300-36 Never Golf Machine (28) (BF) I Naughton 9-1 — Paul Eddery 87
6 (5) 43034- Short Romance (249) (BF) J Hills 9-0 — Dane O'Neill 83
7 (18) 060-0 Sesubiana (34) D Haydn Jones 8-13 — S Sanders 81
8 (16) 060-14 Elba Magic (21) (BF) C Dwyer 8-11 — F Lynch ★ 90
9 (7) 0000- Cali Mia Yerra (24) E Wheeler 8-8 — A Daly (3) —
10 (6) 50-440 Sonny (65) (C) A Jarvis 8-8 — S Sanderson 84
11 (12) 0-0045 Zuryal (27) B Meehan 8-8 — G Hannon (7) ★ 83
12 (8) 15-030 Mari-Ela (16) J Arnold 10-9 — C Lowther 89
13 (3) 0000- Thomas O'Malley (238) R O'Sullivan 5-7 — F Dee (5) —
14 (4) 000- Final Settlement (237) J Jenkins 8-7 — A McGlone —
15 (17) 6-3110 Mister Tricky (15) (D) (BF) P Mitchell 6-7 — M Tebbutt —
16 (9) 0-50 Mozzoone (24) J Gosden 8-6 — L Dettori ★ 85
17 (1) 0000- Sabre Girl (254) K Ivory 8-3 — Martin Dwyer 79
18 (2) 05-446 Capercaillie (119) D Morris 8-3 — S Drowne 77

Betting: 9-2 Never Golf Machine, 6-1 Elba Magic, 7-1 Short Romance, Mozzoone, 8-1 Mari-Ela, 10-1 River Boat, Mister Tricky, 12-1 Long Island.

7.30 HASBRO STAKES
6f £5,284 (8 declared) SKY

1 (6) 24050- Crystonec (281) (D) J Arnold 4-9-4 — Martin Dwyer 87
2 (3) 05050- Bella Mister (228) (D) N Littmoden 7-9-4 — T S McLaughlin 86
3 (5) 0-0006 Sharp Bat (13) (B) R Hannon 4-9-4 — L Dettori 86
4 (2) 0300-0 Tashkin (15) R Armstrong 5-9-4 — S Price 79
5 (1) 1123-5 Almasi (29) (CD) C Wall 6-9-1 — Jo Hansson (5) 86 85

6 (1) 0-1 Caribbean Monarch (48) (D) M Stoute 3-8-13 — R Sainthorp 77
7 (8) 01 Point Of Dispute (29) (D) P Makin 3-8-13 — S Sanders 79
8 (4) 501 Tango (10) (D) R Hannon 3-8-13 — Dane O'Neill 80

Betting: 9-4 Caribbean Monarch, 7-2 Almasi, 7-1 Crystonec, Tango, 8-1 Hello Mister.

8.00 GRANGEWOOD SALES AND MARKETING STAKES 2YO
5f £3,209 (10 declared) SKY

1 (6) 1 Cheyenne Gold (10) (D) R Hannon 9-2 — Pat Eddery ● 80
2 (1) 1 Sydney Safehands (32) (D) N Littmoden 9-0 — S Fallon 86
3 (8) 10 Charlene Lacy (45) (D) A Jarvis 8-13 — D Sweeney 87
4 (7) Midhish Two M Stoute 8-12 — J Reid —
6 (10) 2 College Blue (14) I Mills 8-7 — S Sanders 89
8 (3) Comdeven M Fetherston-Godley 8-7 — W Ryan —
7 (2) Grace Melbury M Blanshard 8-7 — J Quinn —
8 (4) Jamaican Law M Channon 8-7 — A Mackay —
9 (9) Stella Slipper K Ivory 8-7 — Martin Dwyer —
10 (5) Swell Betty R Hannon 8-7 — Dane O'Neill —

Betting: 5-2 Cheyenne Gold, 7-2 Midhish Two, 6-1 Jamaican Law, 7-1 Sydney Safehands, College Blue, 16-1 Charlene Lacy, 14-1 Comdeven, Swell Betty.

8.30 NSPCC HANDICAP
1m 3f 135yds £2,668 (20 declared)

1 (3) 600-12 Admirals Secret (16) (CD) (BF) C Wall 9-10-2 — J Reid ● 80
2 (16) 15140- Karakuma (234) (CD) G Bakker 5-10-0 — S Drowne 84
3 (4) 55540- Gee Bee Bee (209) A Jarvis 4-10-0 — W Ryan 85
4 (1) 6310-0 Fern's Governor (9) (CD) J Bridger 6-9-13 — D Harrison 85
5 (8) 223-41 Haydn James (16) P Harris 4-9-10 — Pat Eddery ★ 84
6 (9) 456004 Marlrow (8) K Wingrove 4-9-10 — A Daly (3) 87
7 (20) 50030- Westminster (207) (CD) (BF) M Tompkins 6-9-9 — D Biggs 85
8 (6) 550-06 Sand Cay (18) R O'Sullivan 4-9-7 — L Dettori 85
9 (2) 040/00 Get Tough (7) E Wheeler 5-9-7 — S Carson (7) —
10 (19) 0030-5 Quibbling (14) K Comerford 4-9-6 — W J O'Connor ★ —
11 (18) 255105 Boo Bowl (74) (D) Mrs B Sanders 4-9-6 — F Dee (5) 86
12 (5) 00-006 San Glamore Melody (7) R Ingram 4-9-3 — M Beard (3) —
13 (15) 003-00 Mary Cull (34) H Candy 4-9-3 — C Rutter ★ 87
14 (10) 0001-1 Cobiba (27) (D) B Curley 5-9-2 — J Quinn —
15 (14) -30060 Airforce Son (29) M Chapman 5-9-1 — C Lowther 81
16 (7) 6-1400 Rangoisin d'Or (100) (D) G Ham 4-9-1 — F Norton 79
17 (11) 00-554 Mobile (JIB) (CD) W Musson 4-9-1 — S Whitworth 82
18 (17) 56500- Berkshire Dancer (229) Simon Earle 4-9-1 — B Parkes 88
19 (11) 221645 Evezio Rullo (17) (D) B Littmoden 6-9-1 — K Fallon ★ 83
20 (12) 5-6452 Hobart Junction (5) S C Williams 3-8-13 — Dane O'Neill ★ 87

Betting: 8-1 Haydn James, 7-1 Cobiba, 8-1 Admirals Secret, 10-1 Hobart Junction, 12-1 Karakuma, Westminster, Don Guest, Evezio Rullo, 14-1 Mobile.

8.00 PERPETUAL PEP MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
1m 2f £3,981 (25 declared)

1 (5) 056- Cloak Of Darkness (246) R Hannon 9-0 — R Hughes 86
2 (18) 3 Green (21) L Cumani 9-0 — L Dettori 87
3 (23) Bee Bell B McMahon 9-0 — Declan O'Shea —
4 (9) 0 Distinct Flyer (21) A Ismail 9-0 — A Daly (3) —
5 (2) El Fuerte P Mohn 9-0 — S Sanders —
6 (3) 003-0 General Monck (44) (BF) B Hanbury 9-0 — W Ryan ★ 84
7 (21) Hollywood M Haynes 9-0 — D Biggs —
8 (20) 32-35 Jewarie Dancer (32) M Jarvis 9-0 — F Batkinson 85
9 (17) Jessica James W Muir 9-0 — S Adams —
10 (11) 02 Kazaal (15) M Stoute 9-0 — M E Sanderson 87
11 (19) 03 Pacifyre (8) W Muir 9-0 — J Reid 89
12 (15) 0 Reel Knight (16) M Fetherston-Godley 9-0 — F Norton —
13 (13) 0- Rush Off (227) R Hannon 9-0 — W J O'Connor 83
14 (4) 0-0 Sajidin (21) Lord Huntingdon 9-0 — Dane O'Neill —
15 (2) 0-6 Superchief (11) J Banks 9-0 — M Hewitt —
16 (22) 42 The Gamboller (16) (BF) Mrs A Perrett 9-0 — Pat Eddery ● 90
17 (1) Tom Puddingham H Morrison 9-0 — C Rutter —
18 (7) Wyld L Cumani 9-0 — G Fffrench —
19 (8) Wand'a Boy S Sherwood 9-0 — B Perham —
20 (24) 0 Doubtin' Bay (14) Dr J Scargill 8-9 — J Quinn —
21 (10) 00 Miss Sahrana (9) G C Williams 8-9 — Martin Dwyer —
22 (6) 0-2 Mole Creek (16) (BF) J Fanshawe 8-9 — G Harrison 87
23 (14) 3 Moulin Rouge (13) E Dunlop 8-9 — S Fallon 86
24 (16) My Hearts Desire D Haydn Jones 8-9 — S Drowne —
25 (12) 600-50 Pandiac Sahre (28) V Soane 8-9 — Paul Eddery 82

Betting: 7-2 Kazaal, 5-1 Deen, 6-1 The Gamboller, Mole Creek, Moulin Rouge.

8.30 BEDALE STAKES
7f £3,730 (6 declared) SKY

1 (4) 640101 Silk St John (7) M Ryan 4-9-8 — G Carter ● 90
2 (1) 4/004- Kalliatel (334) R Fahey 4-9-5 — J Fortune 82
3 (3) 20-064 Sea-Deer (8) C Dwyer 9-8-6 — D O'Donohoe 86
4 (6) 0-1 John Ferneley (41) (D) P Cole 3-8-9 — T Quinn 88
5 (2) 20-004 Inchalonig (16) (D) M Brittain 3-8-6 — D Mernagh (7) 90
6 (5) 2322- Odette (227) (BF) Sir M Prescott 3-8-6 — G Duffield 88

Betting: 11-8 Silk St John, 3-1 Odette, 7-2 John Ferneley, 8-1 Kalliatel, Inchalonig.

8.50 LEEMING BAR HANDICAP
5f £3,912 (12 declared)

1 (6) 000415 Benzoe (9) (CD) (BF) Mrs J Ramsden 6-10-0 — J Fortune 86
2 (2) 2/500- Bilko (302) (D) D Nicholls 4-10-0 — Alex Greaves 85
3 (8) -41250 Brookdale Beauty (23) (D) D Shaw 9-9-7 — R Winston (5) ★ 85
4 (11) 2000-0 Caution (9) S Gollings 4-9-6 — J Weaver 83
5 (7) 10-000 Moorshalla (18) (C) (D) R Guest 6-9-5 — D Griffiths (3) 87
6 (12) 030-20 Broccoli Lad (17) (CD) M Hammond 6-9-4 — D Holland 88
7 (3) 13030- Miss Bruce (265) (D) M Dods 4-9-0 — J Carroll 84
8 (4) 00-453 William's Well (17) (D) (BF) M W Easterby 4-8-7 — T Lucas ★ 83
9 (1) 034400 Chemcast (4) (D) J Eyre 5-8-7 — S Lappin ★

هكذا من الاصل

PARTING SHOT

In at the deep end . . . the Australian marathon swimmer Susie Maroney sets off from the Mexican Isla Mujeres for Cuba, a distance of 145 miles and likely to take 45-50 hours. Mexican authorities were worried about sharks in the Yucatan Channel

Photograph by Claudio Cruz

France memo for Hoddle: take Bazza's suit. Please!

SCREEN BREAK

Martin Kelner

ONE man this week showed he was made of the right stuff. Displaying true grit, of the type England will certainly need to make progress in the World Cup, he showed he was prepared to ignore the critics and take on the world his way. Well done Barry Venison.

In an act of glorious defiance Venisoo, roundly ridiculed oo ITV's The Truth About Footballers for his somewhat outrageous taste in tailoring, showed up a few nights later on the same channel's Big Match wearing a jacket that was clearly left over from an early series of The Black and White Minstrel Show. God bless Bazza for bringing a little harmless fun to the anti-entertainment that was England's World Cup warm-up campaign.

> I feel I may be tiring of our national game. At present football is not just the new rock 'n' roll, it is the new everything

Venison's jacket, unless my television had, by Friday night, simply had enough of footballers talking cobblers and decided to give up altogether, seemed to be a predominantly monochrome number: black, white and grey vertical stripes, the sort of thing that used to come on after Bill and Ben in the event of a breakdown.

The garment may once have been offcuts from a deckchair factory, run up by Versace, or possibly it was stolen straight out of Richard Whiteley's wardrobe. Whatever, it must have given John Barnes something to think about. Will Barnesy be able to come up with an equally ridiculous outfit by June 10? That is now the big World Cup question.

At least it is round our place, the only other points of interest in the Belgium match being exactly how sad you have to be to travel to Morocco to watch England in the King Hassan II Cup, and at what point in the game Rio Ferdinand would make his try for the Bobby Moore memorial award with a casual pass across the face of his goal to the opposition's most dangerous player.

Venisoo's brave fashion statement — has he revealed his hand too early in the campaign? — was actually something of a surprise. The general view on The Truth About Footballers was that Bazza's bad-suit days were over.

"You used to really look forward to Barry Venisoo coming on," said the Manchester City fan Mark Radcliffe. "He'd have oo this really bad suit that had probably cost him about four grand, and you could imagine him looking in the mirror, that blond mullet on his head, thinking he really looked the business, and everyone at home thinking . . . what is that? But now he's had a haircut, he's got these little glasses and he looks like he's going to a fancy-dress party as a librarian."

Radcliffe and his sidekick Lard — a great doubls act, like Baddiel and Skinner only funny — were talking about what footballers should do oo retiring. "All footballers should grow fat and bald and run a pub on the Wirral," said Radcliffe. "What, the same pub?" asked Lard.

The two-second wisecrack was typical of The Truth About Footballers, which may have been the fastest hour of television I have ever seen, whizzing by like a Roberto Carlos free-kick. As well as Mark and Lard, there was Ant and Dec, who my children tell me are popular singers, Mandy and Nicola Smith, former models a t a guess, Melvyn Bragg in a daft raincoat, Uri Geller, the Duke of Devonshire, a bitter Angie Best, Robert Kilroy-Silk looking like he'd been putting his head in the microwave again, Angus Deayton, Lee Chapman in his posh restaurant, and many more, all delivering tightly edited little apercus into different aspects of the footballer's life.

I am afraid my notes ran out, possibly in sympathy, when Chapman said without a hint of post-modern irony that football was the new rock 'n' roll. In any other week The Truth About Footballers, fast and funny, would have been very welcome, but I feel I may be tiring of our national game. At present football is not just the new rock 'n' roll, it is the new everything.

In this phoney war before the World Cup, The Simpsons is about the only show you can watch safe in the knowledge it will be untainted by football. The muddled oafs have taken over. In the commercial breaks they sell you soft drinks, sportswear and Play Stations, Ron Atkinson and Andy Gray turn up on Countdown, Ally McCoist shows off his new bleached hair on TFI Friday, they are on Top of the Pops and the News, and I don't even want to think about Des O'Connor's World Cup Party, on ITV this Wednesday. It will take some very silly suits and haircuts to save that.

To borrow a catchphrase from Private Eye: Is there much more of this?

Weekend results

FOOTBALL

WORLD CUP WARM-UP MATCHES

United States (0) 5 **Scotland** (0) 0
46,037

Luxembourg: Cameroon 2 Luxembourg 0. **Nantes:** Chile 3 Tunisia 2. **Moscow:** Russia 1 Georgia 1. **Frankfurt:** Germany 3 Colombia 1. **Spatzhagen:** Stuttgart Kickers 1 S Africa 1.

EUROPEAN U-21 FINALS (Bucharest): **Play-offs: 3rd/4th:** Norway 2 (Iversen 17, 74) Netherlands 0. **5th/6th** Germany 2 Sweden 1. **7th/8th** Russia 2 Romania 1.

DUTCH PLAY-OFFS (for two places in first division; tl denotes second division side). **Group A:** RKC Waalwijk 5 Eindhoven (II) 0; ADO den Haag (II) 2 Emmen (II) 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RKC Waalwijk	5	4	1	0	12	2	13
Eindhoven	5	1	2	2	6	9	5
ADO Den Haag	5	1	2	2	6	9	5
Emmen	5	0	3	2	8	12	5

Group B: Cambuur Leeuwarden (II) 2 Den Bosch (II) 2; Groningen 1 Zwolle (II) 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
C Leeuwarden	5	3	2	0	13	7	11
Zwolle	5	2	2	1	7	7	8
Den Bosch	5	1	2	2	0	8	5
Groningen	5	0	2	3	5	11	5

Notes: Group winners will play in the Dutch first division next season.
WOMEN'S WORLD CUP QUALIFIER: Finn Scotland 17 Lithuania 0.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES

Boland 48 Ireland 35
Victoria 13 Scotland 42

SUPER 12 (Auckland): **Finish:** Canterbury 20 Auckland 13.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SUPER LEAGUE

Sheffield (10) 22
T: Law, Pinkney, Senior, Turner.
G: Vasellakopoulos 3.
Halifax (18) 28
T: Tuilagi 2, Bouveng, Pearson, Rowley.
G: Pearson 3, Bloem.
Att: 5,500
Huddersfield (16) 28
T: Booth, Cook, Hanger, Harmon, Weston.
G: Loughlin 4
Warrington (0) 6
T: Roper.
G: Briers.
Att: 4,127
Hull (4) 16
T: Campbell, Saru, Smith.
G: Smith 2.
Wigan (18) 38
T: Moore 2, Connolly, Cowie, Haughton, Robinson.
G: Farrell 7.
Att: 6,898
Salford (0) 6
T: Martin, Rogers.
Castleford (12) 16
T: Ford, Mather, Wells.
G: Benn 3.
Att: 4,143
St Helens (12) 16
T: Hammond, Joynt, Sullivan.
G: Long 3.
Leeds (16) 31
T: Cummins, Godden, Hay, Penalty, Powell.
G: Harris 4, Holroyd.
DG: Harris.
Att: 7,825

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	8	6	0	0	192	96	16
Wigan	8	5	0	3	248	76	14
Bradford	8	5	0	2	184	108	16
Halifax	8	5	0	2	182	147	12
St Helens	8	4	0	4	166	173	8
Salford	8	4	0	4	166	173	8
Leeds	0	3	0	5	110	129	6
Castleford	0	3	0	5	126	184	6
Warrington	8	3	0	5	132	211	6
Sheffield	8	2	0	6	161	170	4
Hull	8	2	0	6	149	195	4
Huddersfield	8	1	0	7	108	262	2

FIRST DIVISION

Featherstone (14) 16
T: Coventry, Fallins.
G: Fallins 4.
DG: Fallins 2.
Hunslet (4) 10
T: Baker, Tawhai.
G: Ellis.
Att: 1,726
Keighley (16) 22
T: Wray 2, Lee, Longo, Robinson.
G: Lee.
Whitehaven (6) 18
T: Lester, Wallace, Wilson.
G: Armstrong 3.
Att: 2,169
Leigh (6) 12
T: Gunning, Haderoll, Hill.
G: Wingfield 3.
Dewsbury (12) 54
T: Bramald 4, Long 2, P Delaney, Flynn, B Williams.
G: Eaton 9.
Att: 1,100
Rochdale (6) 26
T: A Eyres 3, Gray, Stevens.
G: Fox 3.
Hull KR (22) 26
T: P Fletcher 2, Gane, Parker, Rouse.
G: M Fletcher 3.
Att: 914
Swinton (6) 16
T: Velicoo.
G: Gartland 4.
DG: Price-Jones.
Wakefield (4) 12
T: Holland, Horsley, A Hughes.
Att: 1,406

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wakefield	15	12	1	2	397	224	26
Hunslet	15	9	1	5	389	260	19
Hull KR	15	9	1	5	336	237	19
Dewsbury	15	8	2	5	397	250	18
Swinton	15	9	0	6	335	258	18
Whitehaven	15	8	0	7	405	343	16
Featherstone	15	7	1	6	377	372	15
Keighley	15	7	0	8	307	400	14
Widnes	15	5	1	9	312	370	11
Leigh	15	4	0	12	297	572	8
Rochdale	15	2	1	12	250	505	5

SECOND DIVISION

Batley (20) 32
T: Barnett 2, Gleadhill, Harrison, Walker.
G: Price 4, Dyson 2.
DG: Barnett.
Doncaster (6) 20
T: Hopworth, Miller, Morgan, Penney.
G: Green 2.
Att: 595
Lancashire Lynx (12) 18
T: Ashcroft, P Jones, Parsley.
G: P Jones 3.
Oldham (6) 18
T: Flanagan, Robinson, Wilde.
G: Wilkinson 3
Att: 1,351
Workington (6) 16
T: Moll, Sullivan, Woodcock.
G: Cook, Sullivan.
Barrow (12) 16
T: McDermott, Wallace.
G: Marwood 2.
DG: Marwood.
Att: 781

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bramley	9	8	0	3	193	146	12
Lancs Lynx	7	4	2	1	168	105	10
York	6	5	0	3	168	120	10
Barrow	8	4	1	3	146	134	9
Oldham	9	4	1	3	157	157	9
Batley	8	3	0	5	167	170	6
Workington	8	2	1	5	121	183	5
Doncaster	8	1	1	6	115	228	3

ACADEMY: Bradford 58 London 10; Featherstone 8 Warrington 20; Hull 26 Wigan 9; St Helens 6 Leeds 48; Wakefield 23 Widnes 26.
AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Canberra 24 Brisbane 16; Canterbury 26 Manly 2; Illawarra 18 South Sydney 12; Melbourne 62 Gold Coast 6; Western Suburbs 36 Adelaide 24; Sydney City 4 Newcastle 20. **Saturday:** St George 26 Balmain 2; Cronulla 16 North Sydney 12; Parramatta 14 Auckland 6. **Friday:** Penrith 28 North Queensland 36. **Leading standings:** 1 Newcastle (P12, Pts20); 2 St George (12–20); 3 Melbourne (12–18).

GOLF

DEUTSCHE BANK-SAP OPEN (Hamburg): **Leading third-round scores** (GB/Ire unless stated):

	198
P Broadhurst	69 65 65
D Clarke	67 66 65
	199
L Westwood	66 68 61
M O'Meara (US)	67 69 63
	200
P Senior (Aus)	69 67 64
	201
J Van De Velde (Fr)	67 67 67
	202
J Haeggman (Swe)	69 70 63
S Henderson	70 68 66
	203
M A Jimenez (Sp)	69 68 66
D Howell	69 69 66
P Mitchell	66 70 67
R May (US)	67 69 67
S Luoger (Ger)	67 68 70
	204
I Woosnam	69 71 64
P Walton	69 70 65
P Haugsrud (Nor)	71 69 67
	205
P Mcginley	65 74 66
P Quirici (Switz)	69 70 67
I Garbutt	70 68 67
S Cooper (SA)	68 68 69
	206
P Lawrie	69 72 65
J Bhullar Singh (India)	68 70 67
M Clementi (It)	67 71 68
M Price (Zim)	70 68 68
M Farry (Fr)	72 68 66
S Torrance	68 69 69
W Westner (SA)	70 69 70
C Montgomerie	67 67 72
	207
C Rocca (It)	70 71 66
S Webster	72 69 66
M Hallberg (Swe)	70 70 67
J M Olazabal (Sp)	69 71 67
G Chalmers (Aus)	67 71 69
J Payne	70 69 68
S Davis	69 69 70
K Tomori (Japan)	68 69 70
M James	67 68 72
	208
W Riley (Aus)	72 69 67
S Allan (Aus)	67 74 67
R Darcy	72 69 67
M Mouland	70 69 69
G Orr	71 68 69
P Fulke (Swe)	72 67 69
M Tomishiri	70 69 69
T Gogala (Ger)	70 68 70
A Cejka (Ger)	68 70 70
M Roe	68 70 70
T Bjorn (Den)	69 68 71
P O'Malley (Aus)	67 70 71
	209
P Price	70 71 68
P Hedblom (Swe)	73 69 69
C Wolfe	73 67 69
	210
D Gilford	70 71 68
S Oldman	70 71 69
S Hospital (Sp)	72 69 66
D Carter	70 71 69
M Davis	70 70 70
D Edlund (Swe)	67 72 71
J Sandelin (Swe)	69 70 71
R Claydon	71 67 72
M Russell	69 69 72
A Collard	68 68 74
	211
A Wall	71 70 70
D Cooper	72 69 70
D Robertson	73 69 70
S Cheapens	71 69 71
J Cesaroni (Arg)	70 69 72
O Chopra (Swe)	72 67 72
K Brink (Swe)	71 69 72
A Hunter	70 69 72
P Baker	68 70 70
	212
T Hamrip (Ger)	73 68 71
J Spence	67 72 72
	213
S Luna (Sp)	72 69 72
R Rossi	71 70 72
P Harrington	68 72 72
C Hadley (US)	73 68 72
Y Koys (Tur)	72 68 72
P-U Johansson (Swe)	70 71 72
O Besse	73 68 72
R Burns	70 70 72
M Mackenzie	71 68 74

MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT (Dublin, Ohio): **Leading third-round scores** (US unless stated):

	202
F Couples	68 67 67
	205
D Love	68 70 66
	206
E Els (SA)	67 72 67
A Magee	67 71 68
T Tryba	67 71 68
	207
S Dunn	74 68 67
	208
B Watkins	71 72 65
L Mize	72 70 66
C Perry	71 69 68
S Quigley	68 68 70
T Lehman	68 70 70
K Triplett	67 71 70
L Mattiace	68 67 73
	209
J Huston	69 75 65
O Dey	73 71 65
S Hamilton	71 72 66
J Furyk	74 68 67
R Damron	70 70 69
M Calcavecchia	68 69 72
	Also: 210
J Parnevik (Swe)	73 71 66
M Faldo (GB)	71 70 69
T Dodds (Nam)	66 72 72
	212
F Nobilo (NZ)	71 72 69
	214
O Hertstedt (Swe)	69 75 70
	215
E Toledo (Mex)	73 70 72
	217
S Ozaki (Japan)	75 70 72
	216
V Singh (Fiji)	73 70 70

PGA EUROPEAN CHALLENGE (Sable Solaamas, France): **Leading final scores** (GB/Ire unless stated):

	272
W Bennett (Bennett won playoff at second extra hole)	66 70 65 66
S Watson	70 68 64 70
	273
M Olander (Swe)	65 69 69 70
	270
O Edmond (Fr)	70 67 66 71
A Pelicki (Fr)	67 68 70 71
T Nielsen (Nor)	68 70 69 70
	277
M Scarpa (It)	70 70 69 68
M Miller	71 68 69 69
	278
D Lee	67 70 72 69
A Langenakes (Bel)	69 70 72 70
G Gonzalez (Arg)	69 67 72 70
G Higgins	69 67 67 75
	Also: 279
J Mellor	72 67 71 69
	281
S Gallacher	72 70 69 70
	282
S Wragg	69 70 75 68
J Robinson	70 70 71 71
	284
S Andrew	69 72 69 74
M Litten	69 72 70 70
	285
G R Jones	68 72 72 72
	286
A Butterfield	72 68 70 67
	290
R Drummond	71 71 81 67

PGA SENIORS CLASSIC (Meon Valley, Southampton): **Leading final scores** (GB/Ire unless stated):

	203
S Coles	67 68 67
D Jones (Coles won play-off at first extra hole)	70 69 68
	206
G Oakley (US)	70 70 66
	207
J McDermott	67 70 70
	209
S Stanley	71 68 70
J Garner	73 70 66
	215
G Cromar	67 70 72
	211
T Horton	71 68 72
	212
J Pountney (SA)	70 71 71
J Rhodes	71 70 71
J Carr (US)	69 72 71
P Leonard	70 70 72
L Higgins	70 69 73
	213
M Slater	69 73 74
C Defoy	70 68 75
	214
J Dolan III (US)	75 70 69
D Snell	73 71 70
J R Dalton (US)	69 70 75
S Vines (Aus)	72 70 72
	216
S Pelland	72 70 73

LPGA ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL: Leading third-round scores (Locust Hill Country Club):

	207
O Jones	74 69 64
	211
S Steinhauer	74 71 66
	215
D Eggeling	72 71 68
J Lisback	71 71 70
S Stacy	74 67 71
M Dunn	67 72 73
	216
A Dibos	71 74 68
D Pepper	70 71 69
L Walters	71 70 75
J Inkster	71 68 74
	214
M McGeorge	74 69 71
S Hamlin	71 71 72
E Dahllof	71 69 74
J Pitcock	67 72 75
	215
L Kane	73 71 71
M Scanlon	72 72 71
D Cox Jones	68 73 74
	216
A Prubwirth	74 71 71
M Mallon	71 73 72
	217
R Hetherington	76 71 73
M Lopez	75 70 71
P Hammel	75 71 71
S Little	74 71 72
V Fergon	72 71 74
R Daniel	72 71 74
E Burton	69 71 78
	218
C Kerr	70 75 70
B King	71 72 70
S Hamilton	73 74 71
J Gibson	70 73 72
C McMillan	70 69 79
J Moodie	77 67 74
T Green	70 68 77
	219
P Sisk	74 73 70
L Atcedes	70 72 71
A Read	75 73 71
J Geddes	73 70 71
K Monaghan	71 70 72
C Walker	74 72 72
C Figg Currier	73 73 73
D Armstrong	73 71 70
J Feldott	71 70 75
M Harvey	72 71 76
	220
H Alfredsson	78 70 71
L Baugh	70 70 74
Se Ri Pak	74 72 74
H Daly Donofrio	70 76 74
S Lowe	75 70 75

TENNIS

FRENCH OPEN (Paris): **Men: Third round:** M Arazi (Mor) bt M Zabaleta (Arg) 6-4 0-6 6-4 7-6; **M Safin** (Rus) bt D Vacek (Cz Rep) 6-3 3-6 6-3 7-5; **A Berasategui** (Sp) bt D Hrbaty (Slovak) 6-7 6-3 7-5 7-5; **C Pioline** (Fr) bt R Krajicek (Neth) 6-3 6-2 7-5; **J Stoltenberg** (Aus) bt M Gustafsson (Sweden) 6-1 2-6 6-4 6-4; **P Devenat** (Bel) bt T Enqvist (Swe) 6-3 6-2 6-3; **M Safin** (Rus) bt D Vacek (Cz Rep) 6-3 3-6 6-3 7-5; **A Corretja** (Sp) bt H Gumy (Arg) 6-1 5-7 6-7 7-5 9-7. **Fourth round: C Moya** (Sp) bt J Knippschild (Ger) 6-3 7-5 3-6 6-4, **T Muster** (Aut) bt F Meligeni (Br) 6-4 6-7 6-3 3-6 6-3; **F Mantilla** (Sp) bt R Delgado (Para) 6-2 6-2 6-4; **M Rios** (Chile) bt A Costa (Sp) 4-6 6-4 6-3 6-3.
Women: Third round: I, Davenport (US) bt E Likhovtseva (Rus) 7-5 7-5; **S Testud** (Fr) bt G Leon Garcia (Sp) 6-1 6-1; **I Majoli** (Cro) bt M Diaz-Oliva (Arg) 6-2 7-6; **A Sanchez-Vicario** (Sp) bt A Fusai (Fr) 6-2 6-1; **M Serna** (Sp) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6-4 2-6 6-1; **P Schnyder** (Switz) bt S Farina (It) 6-2 6-1; **C Martinez** (Sp) bt V Ruano-Pascual (Sp) 6-1 6-0; **S Williams** (US) bt D Van Roost (Bel) 6-1 6-1. **Fourth round: V Williams** (US) bt H Nagyova (Slovak) 6-1 6-3, **M Hingis** (Switz) bt A Smashnova (Isr) 6-1 6-2; **L Davenport** (US) bt S Testud (Fr) 6-3 4-6 6-2; **P Schnyder** (Switz) bt M Serna (Sp) 6-1 6-3; **A Sanchez-Vicario** (Sp) bt S Williams (US) 4-6 7-5 6-3; **M Seles** (US) bt C Rubin (US) 6-1 6-4

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Adelaide 17.9 (111) Melbourne 8.10 (58); Collingwood 19.5 (119) Fremantle 17.10 (112). Geelong 17 12 (114) North Melbourne 13.13 (91). **Saturday:** Carlton 17.9 (111) Brisbane 12.15 (87); Richmond 13.18 (97) Port Adelaide 9 13 (67); Essendon 13 15 (93) Hawthorn 13.9 (87); Sydney 8.5 (53) St Kilda 24.10 (154) **Friday:** West Coast 16.17 (113) Western 15.10 (100). **Leading standings:** 1 Western (P10, Pts32); 2 Sydney (10–28); 3 St Kilda (10–26).

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto 4 Cleveland 2; NY Yankees 2 Boston 3; Detroit 0 Chi White Sox 0; Tampa Bay 5 Seattle 2; Baltimore 8 Texas 10; Minnesota 8 Anaheim 1; Kansas City 4 Oakland 10.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chicago Cubs 8 Atlanta 9; Colorado 6 Houston 3; Los Angeles 3 Cincinnati 7; San Francisco 4 Arizona 1; Philadelphia 4 NY Mets 6. Pittsburgh 6 Montreal 7; Milwaukee 12 Florida 4; San Diego 3 St Louis 2.

CHESS

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Cazorla, Sp): **Final elimination Game four:** A Shirov (Sp) 1, V Kramnik (Rus) 0. Petroff Defence, 63 moves. **Game five:** Kramnik K, shirov X, Grunfeld Defence, 69 moves. **Game six:** Shirov X Kramnik K, four knights, 18 moves. **Shirov leads 3½–2½.**
UK LEAGUE (Birmingham): **Round 11:** Wood Green 4½, Barbican 3½; Sutton Wales 3½, Bristol 4½; Richmond 2½, North West 5½; Midlands 6, Northumbria 2; Kent Invicta Knights 3½, Slough 4½; Guildford 1½, British Chess Magazine 6½. **Final scores:** 1 Midlands 21 (match points 100 game points); 6 Kent Invicta Knights 18 (57); 8 Slough 18 (54½); 4 Wood Green 10 (54); 5 Barbican 14 (50); 6 Richmond 11 (43).

CRICKET

FIRST TEST: Colombo: New Zealand 305 (S Fleming 78, A Parore 67; Muralitharan 5–80) and 444–6 dec (S Fleming 176no, C McMillan 142). Sri Lanka 285 (R Kaluwitharana 72, M Jayawardene 52) and 297 (P de Silva 71, S Jayasuriya 59, M Jayawardene 54; Wiseman 5–82). New Zeland won by 167 runs.
TRIANGULAR SERIES: Colombo: Kenya 196 (H Modi 71; Venkatesh Prasad 4–23). India 197–1 (S Tendulkar 100no, A Jadeja 50no). India won by nine wickets.

CYCLING

TOUR OF BRITAIN: Final stage (London circuit race, 80km): 1 J Sweet (Aus) Bigmat Auber 93 1hr 39min 12sec; 2 D McKenzie (Aus); 3 A Kolf (Ger) Festina; 4 C Lillywhite (GB); 5 M Backstedt (Sweden) Gan; 6 S O'Grady (Aus) Gan; 7 C Dacruz (Fr) Bigmat Auber 93; 8 C Boardman (GB) Gan; 9 C Barnsley (NZ); 10 D Baranowski (Pol) US Postal Service all same time. **Leading overall standings:** 1 S O'Grady (Aus) Gan 27-17.53; 2 C Boardman (GB) Gan at 45secs; 3 D Baranowski (Pol) US Postal Service 0.57, 4 N Stephens (Aus) Festina 1.14; 5 T Hamilton (US) US Postal Service 1.32; 6 C Dacruz (Fr) Bigmat Auber 93 1.33; 7 S Bergen (Fr) Bigmat Auber 93 1.52; 8 C Newton (GB) Brite 1.52; 9 M Backstedt (Swe) Gan 2.15; 10 N Sorensen (Den) 2.37.
GIRO D'ITALIA (Trieste): 15th stage (40km time trial): 1 A Zuelle (Switz) Festina 44min 08sec; 2 S Gonchar (Ukr) Carrera Tofid at 53sec; 3 P Tonkov (Rus) Mapei 1.22; 4 J C Dominguez (Sp) Vitalicio 2.00; 5 M Barroti (It) Asics 2.11; 6 B Boscardin (Switz) Festina 2.13; 7 R Forconi (It) Mercatone Uno 2.16; 8 O Camenzind (Switz) Mapei 2.32; 9 P Savoldelli (It) Saeco 2.33; 10 A Kashpuls (Lith) Casino 2.44; 11 M Velo (It) Mercatone Uno 2.51; 12 M Hvedsbja (Sloven) Carrera Tolio 2.53; 13 M Streit (Bel) Casino 2.58; 14 D Zanetto (It) Calderola 3.00; 15 J Gutierrez (Sp) Kelme 3.11; 16 M Podenzana (It) Mercatone Uno 3.17; 17 G Simoni (It) Cardiola 3.18; 18 T Tauler (Sp) Ros Mary 3.20; 19 R Sgambelluri (It) Brescialat same time; 20 G Faresin (It) Mapei 3.23. **Overall standings:** 1 Zuelle 67hr 45mins 49sec; 2 Tonkov at 2min 2sec; 3 M Pantani (It) Mercatone Uno 3.48; 4 G Guerini (It) Polti 4.21; 5 A Noe (Hy) Asics 4.34; 6 Barroti 4.52; 7 Camenzind 5.21, 8 Gonchar 5.48; 9 Dominguez 5.50; 10 Forconi 6.15; 11 Velo 6.52; 12 L Leblanc (Fr) Polti 6.55; 13 W Belli (It) Festina 7.01; 14 L Roux (Fr) TVM 7.33; 15 N Miceli (It) Riso Scotti 7.51. 16 D Clavero (Sp) Vitalicie 8.34; 17 D Rebellin (It) Polti 8.45; 18 Faresin 9.16; 19 J Luis Rubiera (Sp) Kelme 9.23; 20 M Magnani (It) Cantina Tolio 9.43

HOCKEY

WORLD CUP (Utrecht, Neth): **Men: Semi-finals:** Netherlands 6 Australia 2; England 2, South Korea 1 Pakistan 3. **9/10th:** New Zealand 3 Malaysia 2; India 8 Poland 2. **11/12th** Malaysia 5 Poland 4.
Women: Final: Australia 3 Netherlands 2. **3rd/4th:** Germany 3 Argentina 2. **5/6th:** South Korea 4 New Zealand 3. **7/8th:** South Africa 0 US 0 (aet; South Africa won 4–2 on pens). **Final standings:** 1 Australia; 2 Netherlands; 3 Germany; 4 Argentina; 5 South Korea; 6 New Zealand; 7 South Africa; 8 US; 9 England; 10 Scotland; 11 China; 12 India.
EUROPEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS: Men: Group A (Glasgow). Western (Scot) 7 Espoo (Fin) 0; Zurich Grasshopper 8 Krinsjsja (Nor) 2; Western 9 Zurich 0 2; Espoo 3 Krinsjsja 1. **Group B:** Zorka Subotica (Yug) 2 Slavia Prague 8; Marathon (Cro) 0 SC Porto (Por) 0; Zorka 4 Marathon 2; Slavia 2 Porto 0. **Women: B Div:** (Cardiff) **Group A:** Siauliai (Lit) 7 Neudorf Vienna 0; Swansea 3 Slavia Prague 4; Siauliai 3 Swansea 3; Slavia 8 Neudorf 0. **Group B:** Muckross (Ire) 1 Stade Francais 2; Rhythm Grodno (Bela) 3 Tirolex (Mol) 0; Stade F 3 Tirolex 4; Grodno 3 Muckross 2.

ICE HOCKEY

NHL: Playoffs: Eastern Conference: Buffalo 0 Washington 2 (Washington lead series 3–1).

MOTORCYCLING

FRENCH GRAND PRIX (Le Castellet): **500cc:** 1 A Criville (Sp) Honda; 5 M Doohan (Aus) Honda; 2 C Checa (Sp) Honda; 4 J Kocinski (US) Honda; 6 M Biaggi (It) Honda; 8 L Cadalora (It) Yamaha; 7 N Abe (Japan) Yamaha; 9 N Aoki (Japan) Suzuki. 6 S Crafar (NZ) Yamaha; 15 S Gibernau (Sp) Honda. **World championship standings:** 1 Criville 92pts; 2 Doohan 90; 3 Biaggi 88; 4 Checa 70; 5 Kocinski 43; 6 Aoki 34; 7 Abe 31; 8 T Okada (Japan) 29; 9 A Barros (Br) 27; 10 Crafar 26. **Constructors:** 1 Honda 125pts; 2 Yamaha 56; 3 Suzuki 44, 4 Modenas KR3 28; 5 Muz 4, 2 Proton 1.
Women: Final: Australia 3 Netherlands 2. **3rd/4th:** Germany 3 Argentina 2. **5/6th:** South Korea 4 New Zealand 3. **7/8th:** South Africa 0 US 0 (aet; South Africa won 4–2 on pens). **Final standings:** 1 Australia; 2 Netherlands; 3 Germany; 4 Argentina; 5 South Korea; 6 New Zealand; 7 South Africa; 8 US; 9 England; 10 Scotland; 11 China; 12 India.
EUROPEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS: Men: Group A (Glasgow). Western (Scot) 7 Espoo (Fin) 0; Zurich Grasshopper 8 Krinsjsja (Nor) 2; Western 9 Zurich 0 2; Espoo 3 Krinsjsja 1. **Group B:** Zorka Subotica (Yug) 2 Slavia Prague 8; Marathon (Cro) 0 SC Porto (Por) 0; Zorka 4 Marathon 2; Slavia 2 Porto 0. **Women: B Div:** (Cardiff) **Group A:** Siauliai (Lit) 7 Neudorf Vienna 0; Swansea 3 Slavia Prague 4; Siauliai 3 Swansea 3; Slavia 8 Neudorf 0. **Group B:** Muckross (Ire) 1 Stade Francais 2; Rhythm Grodno (Bela) 3 Tirolex (Mol) 0; Stade F 3 Tirolex 4; Grodno 3 Muckross 2.

ROWING

WORLD CUP (Munich): **Finals: Men: Single sculls:** 1 J Koven (US) 0min 58.66sec; 2 V Chalupa (Cz Rep) 7.01.22; 6 A Ibrahim Ali (Egy) 7 02.07, 4 O Tufte (Nor 2) 7.03 07; 5 A Reinholds (Lat) 7.04.27; 6 L Spik (Sloven) 7 08.30. **World Cup standings:** 1 US 8pts; 2 Cz Rep 6; 3 Egypt 5; 4 Norway 4; 5 Latvia 3; 6 Slovenia 2; 7 Estonia 1. **Double sculls:** 1 Norway 1 6 30 68; 2 Norway 2 6.31.65; 3 Poland 6.33.87; 4 Hungary 6.34.06, 5 Cz Rep 6.37.39; 6 Britain 6.38.94. **World Cup standings:** 1 Norway 8; 2 Poland 5; 2 Hungary 4; 4 Cz Rep 3; 5 Britain 2; 6 Belgium 1. **Quadruple sculls:** 1 Austria 6.05 45, 5 Ukraine 6.08.34, 3 Switzerland 6.10.27; 4 Poland 6.11.96; 5 Belarus 6 12.86, 6 Denmark 6.19.39 **World Cup standings:** 1 Austria 8, 5 Ukraine 5; 3 Switzerland 5; 4 Poland 4; 5 Belarus 3; 6 Denmark 2; 7 Britain 1. **Coxless pairs:** 1 Germany 6 41 42; 2 Croatia 2 6.46.16; 3 Romania 6.46.78; 4 Britain 6.48 82; 5 Lithuania 6.52.57, 6 Hungary 6.53.72. **World Cup standings:** 1 Germany 8; 5 Croatia 6; 3 Romania 5; 4 Britain 4; 5 Lithuania 3; 6 Hungary 2; 7 Slovenia 1. **Coxless fours:** 1 Romania 6.16.78; 2 Germany 1 6 17.57; 5

French Open

No worry beads . . . Venus Williams, drives her way to victory over Slovakia's Henrieta Nagyova before tomorrow's quarter-final meeting with Martina Hingis PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Stephen Bierley on a game which will show whether the No.1 can stay on top

Venus's fate rests on Hingis

THE first week of a Grand Slam tournament can be likened to the Tour de France before the first time-trial and the mountains. A lot can happen but it is rarely conclusive. "This has been the warm-up," said Martina Hingis yesterday. "The second week is the tournament for the stars."

Hingis, the No. 1 seed, had just won 6-1, 6-2 against Israel's Anna Smashnova (a name that surely demanded she play tennis) to reach a quarter-final against Venus Williams tomorrow — one of the most eagerly awaited clashes of this French Open.

They last met just over two weeks ago in the Italian Open final, which Hingis won in three sets, her fifth win in seven meetings against the American.

Hingis refuses to be drawn into talk of rivalries. "You cannot really say there are rivalries right now," said Hingis, a glint of steely arrogance behind her flashing smile. "Sure, Anna Kournikova and the Williams sisters are going to be very dangerous in the future, but right now they haven't won anything big. I've won four Grand Slams."

So she has. But the future may catch up with Hingis rather quicker than she would wish, unless she stays right on top of her game. Her serve remains vulnerable, although she believes it is improving with the rest of her game.

These are fascinating times in the women's game, although, for all the talk of the teenagers, what might be described as the old guard — Monica Seles, 24, and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, 26 — are far from done.

Seles, a three-times champion here before the stabbing incident in 1993, also made it to the quarter-finals yesterday, beating her fellow American Chanda Rubin 6-1, 6-4. Rubin, 22, was once spoken of as a potential Grand Slam champion but serious wrist injuries have affected her career.

The day's most fascinating match involved Sanchez Vicario and the 16-year-old Serena Williams, playing only her second Grand Slam. Many believe that Serena will ultimately outstrip her sister, and the Spaniard, the champion here in 1989 and 1994, was expected to be given a tough ride.

Indeed, the younger Williams, thundered to a 2-0 lead, the packed court gasping at the ferocity of her groundstrokes and the daring of her passes. But Sanchez Vicario quickly levelled, and began to move the American from side to side like a pendulum.

Sanchez Vicario squeaked out of one tight jam as she served to save the first set, but neat volleying at the net saw Williams home. The Spaniard believed a shot had bounced twice during this rally and created merry hell with the umpire. Williams, not averse to speaking her mind, firmly pointed out that the Sanchez Vicario was talking through the holes in her racket.

Thereafter the tennis took over, save for what might have constituted a touch of gamesmanship midway through the second set when Sanchez Vicario visited the bathroom, and returned having changed her black dress for a white one.

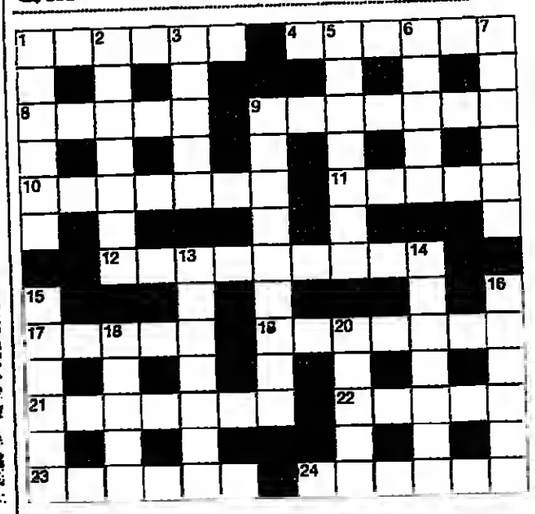
There was no adverse affect on Williams, who broke her for a 4-2 lead which she extended to 5-2. But then the youngster's game began to unravel, probably out of tiredness.

Sanchez Vicario reeled off five successive games for the second set and thereafter took control to win 4-6, 7-5, 6-3. Serena, watched by Venus, who had earlier defeated Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia 6-1, 6-3, will have learned a lot from this defeat.

Marcelo Rios, the men's title favourite, reached the last eight with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 win over Spain's Albert Costa. He next plays another Spaniard Carlos Moya, whose compatriot Alex Corretja also went through after one of the longest matches in French Open history, a 5½-hour defeat of Argentina's Hernan Gumy.

Corretja, left, consoles Gumy after their 5½-hour marathon

Quick Crossword No. 8762

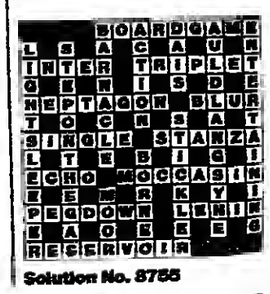


Across

1 Short-sighted (6)
4 Purchased — bribed (6)
8 Deep pit (5)
9 Lose all hope (7)
10 Subdue (7)
11 Artist's stand (5)
12 Assured (9)
17 Prickle (5)
19 Regular — soldiers wear one (7)
21 Playhouse (7)
22 Which Winston Churchill smoked (5)
23 Tired (6)
24 Fair (6)

Down

1 Scanty (6)
2 Describes games held four-yearly (7)
3 Outcome (5)
5 Lewd (7)
6 Tumbler (5)
7 Tremble with delight (6)
9 Penniless (9)
13 Continuous (3-4)
14 Considered — conception (7)
15 Rank (6)
16 Unpleasantly suave (6)
18 Overweight (5)
20 Bring upon oneself (5)



Solution No. 8755

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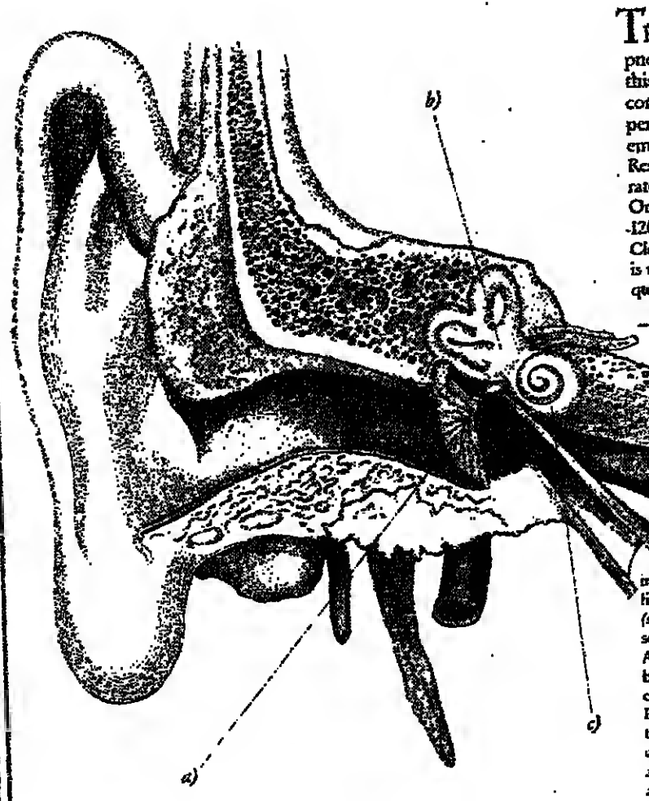
We even protect
THE BONES
THAT SEAT BELTS,
airbags and
crumple zones can't.



Sound waves first strike the eardrum *(a)*, causing the trio of tiny bones *(b)* to vibrate. These vibrations are then relayed to the cochlea *(c)*, where they are converted into nerve impulses.

* CARRY A PIECE OF THE QUIET *

Concentrate on silence. When it comes, dwell on what it sounds like. Then strive to carry that quiet with you wherever you go.

From 'The Little Book of Calm'[6]

THE ROAR OF TRAFFIC, the blare of sirens, the rumble of pneumatic drills. Hardly a day passes when our ears *aren't* assaulted by this urban cacophony. More than just a minor irritation, excessive noise contributes to hearing loss, headaches, and stress. And, over sustained periods, can even increase blood pressure. That's the startling result that emerged during recent studies in Helsinki, Finland.[1]
Researchers there found a level of *60-70 decibels* was enough to change the rate of blood circulation. Way below the 90 decibels a lorry emits at 30 mph. Or typical background road noise levels of 80 decibels. Or the ear splitting 120 decibels pumped out by a pneumatic drill.[2]
Clearly, noise pollution can affect the health of each and every one of us. Which is why we want to spend a few minutes to tell you something about an altogether quieter, more tranquil alternative. The interior of a Vauxhall Omega.

YOU MAY NOT HAVE HEARD THIS.

IS YOUR car hushed enough to allow a conversation without shouting, at motorway speeds? Is it insulated enough to hear Eric Clapton's Fender Stratocaster, without an engine accompaniment?
According to our engineers, it ought to be. Far from being mere idealists, they actually practice what they preach in the area of noise abatement. If any part of the vehicle should emit the tiniest rattle or whine, you can be sure they'll silence it.
An example of their efforts can be found behind the dashboard, an area where engine noise can often intrude on the calm of the cabin. Here, liberal amounts of high-density foam *(see fig.1)* have been used to deaden the sound, and create a cocoon-like feel.
And even the engine roar itself has been tamed, thanks to a design which cuts out piston vibration.
Finally, a set of low rolling resistance tyres ensures that the Omega treads more quietly than other saloons. So, if you do arrive at work feeling fresher and more alert, it's probably because you can hear yourself think for a change.

DON'T JUST PROTECT YOUR EARS, PAMPER THEM.

WHAT better way to take advantage of a quieter cabin, than with an improved music system? Especially now doctors are prescribing our favourite tunes, as the way to reduce blood pressure, and lower stress hormone levels.[3]
You'll find music can be even more restorative when you hear it on our state-of-the-art CCR Bose sound system.[4] The unit includes a six disc auto-changer CD player operated by the lightest touch of our steering wheel-mounted controls. It offers the kind of sound quality you're most likely to hear at a top-class concert venue, than inside a saloon car. If Simon Rattle ever drops his conductor's baton, trust us, the CCR speakers will pick it up.

AN INSTANT CURE FOR EARACHE.

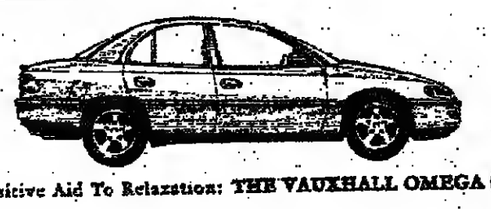
YOU'RE on the way to a meeting, when you take the wrong turn off the motorway. Instead of shouting at your unfortunate navigator, wouldn't you rather consult our on-board navigation system, CARIN?[5] Firstly, it details the quickest, most hassle-free route you can take from A to B, on a screen in front of you. (Informing you if you need to avoid roadworks or traffic jams.) Then, using satellite technology, it monitors your exact position, making it virtually impossible to end up in Farnham, instead of Farnborough.

Fig.1

COME IN FOR A HEARING TEST.

LISTEN to the dulcet tones of one of our salesmen. Hear exactly how quiet our noise improvements have made the Omega's cabin. Contact 0345 400 202 for details[7] of your nearest Vauxhall dealership, and how to arrange a test drive.

1. P.Sotaniemi Helsinki University of Technology 1992.
2. The Daily Telegraph, August 1992.
3. European Society of Cardiology XVIth Annual Congress, August 1995.
4. Standard on Elite. Optional on other models.
5. Standard on Elite. Optional on other models.
6. Paul Wilson, Penguin Books 1997.
7. Some essential as all.



A Positive Aid To Relaxation: THE VAUXHALL OMEGA

هكذا من الاصل